

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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No. 5

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Vol. XVII

Help for the Unemployed—What Can Nalgo Do?

Mr. A. A. Garrard, who contributes this article, has been a member of the National Executive Council for many years, and has, for the past few years, served as their representative on the National Council of Social Service. In this article Mr. Garrard surveys the social welfare work of the National Council of Social Service amongst the unemployed

IT is not my purpose in this article to discuss whether the steps taken by successive Governments for the alleviation of the lot of the unemployed have been adequate or otherwise. Rather do I wish to direct the attention of members of the Association to what is being accomplished by the National Council of Social Service in supervision and grant-aid for social welfare work amongst the unemployed.

This work, to all intents and purposes, was initiated in 1927 when a few members of the Society of Friends founded an educational settlement at Maes-yr-haf in the Rhondda Valley, South Wales. The need for this work became increasingly urgent when the financial crisis struck England, and the number of unemployed rose to nearly two million. With the growth of voluntary schemes for aiding the unemployed, the need for co-ordination and pooling of experience increased simultaneously and in November, 1932, the Ministry of Labour invited the National Council of Social Service to act as the central advisory body for the movement throughout the country, and offered to place funds at the disposal of the Council for the purpose of supplementing voluntary resources. The Council has similarly been aided by grants from the Commissioner for Special Areas in the promotion of schemes for the unemployed in those areas. Nevertheless, the work still relies very considerably on voluntary contributions for its maintenance.

The Occupational Club

The unit of most of this work is the Occupational Club, the numbers of which have risen to over 1,500 with a membership of more than 200,000. One of the things which the unemployed most lack is the opportunity of occupying their leisure in ways which are most enjoyable and serve some useful purpose. Occupation Centres are an attempt to provide opportunities of this sort. An ideal Club is one where the men can practise handicrafts and thus satisfy the creative desire, and by exercising their hands and their minds in practical ways, make and repair articles for use in their own homes and for the Club itself. The Club also offers and makes possible facilities for the holding of dramatic classes, and choral groups, wireless discussion groups, lectures,

debates, physical training, football and other outdoor games; a reading-room and opportunities for indoor games.

With the growth of the membership of a Club and a desire on the part of the members to increase and improve the range of their activities, a course of training for some of the members in craft work or drama or physical training is of very real assistance. In this connection, the National Council maintains

Training Centres where Club members may go to learn in order that they may pass their knowledge on to others. In addition, the National Council have established a number of Regional Committees, each with a staff of instructors who are able to visit the Clubs and follow up and improve the standard of activity.

It is obvious that however anxious the unemployed members of any particular town or village may be to help themselves, their resources for so doing are very limited. It must be realised that in really distressed areas there is very little local money available and even with grants made by the National Council of Social Service for the establishment of premises and the purchase of equipment, it is not always possible for local people to meet other expenses. Given adequate funds, good advice, and some little encouragement, these Clubs can accomplish much that is truly amazing. Members of Occupational Centres generally pay a subscription such as 1d. a week, which goes

towards the maintenance of their Club. During the last three years these contributions have amounted to a total of nearly £20,000—surely no mean indication of the will of the men to help themselves. The National Council makes grants from funds at their disposal towards helping in the initial expense which is incurred by the Centres, such as provision of premises and the equipment with tools, supply of needful apparatus for physical training, etc. The Council is, however, unable to give grant-aid to meet maintenance charges, such as rent, rates, lighting, or heating.

Adoption Association Movement

It is in this connection that other members of the community better circumstanced than their fellows can render service by assisting the Occupational Centres to meet some of these charges. One of the ways in which this help is being given is



Mr. A. A. Garrard

through what is known as the "Adoption" Association movement, a movement which has developed considerably in the Civil Service. There are, at the present time, about 70 Social Service "Adoption" Associations in the Civil Service, covering 35 Departments of State, with 32,000 regular subscribers. The total amount raised by these bodies in subscriptions and donations since the beginning of the movement is approximately £41,000, and it is estimated that the annual income of such Associations is £20,000.

There are also several "adoptions" outside the Civil Service, of which the largest is the Surrey adoption of Jarrow. This is a somewhat different type from those helped by the Government Departments. Under this scheme help is not afforded to one or more occupational centres, but to Jarrow as a whole; and to this end the fund has been used for the decoration of the houses of the unemployed, for sports and recreation grounds and clubs for juveniles, for the making of a park by utilising the paid labour of the hitherto unemployed, and in an endeavour to start new industries. Over £40,000 had been raised for this fund up to May, 1936.

Another large scheme is the Hertfordshire Adoption Fund, which has been used in various parts of Durham. A large part of the fund has been used on the capital cost of erecting new clubs and starting poultry and allotment schemes. Over £16,000 had been raised up to March, 1936.

Outside the Civil Service there are approximately seventeen Social Service Associations (comprising the staffs of banks and business houses) whose contributions range in size from a few pounds to over a thousand pounds a year.

There is also a scheme in Liverpool in which many bodies co-operate—industrial, Civil Service, and Local Government Service. Their funds, which amount to about £4,500 annually, are used only amongst the centres in Liverpool.

About 149 schemes are being helped through the country by Social Service Associations, the amount and the type of help given varying from place to place. Some Associations adopt one centre, others a group of centres with a supervisor for the group. Assistance has also been given in the erection of buildings for centres and in connection with amenity schemes.

Special Areas

It is interesting to note that so great has been the development that in Durham there is not a single centre which is not receiving help, great or small, from some Adopting Association, and that practically all the Cumberland centres also receive some help.

In South Wales the problem is somewhat different, as the majority of centres are grouped round a settlement, which provides their specialist instruction. Two of these Settlements (Aberdare and Pontypridd) have already been adopted and it is hoped that others will be adopted in the future. There are a few individual centres that also receive help.

Outside the Special Areas, there are a fair number of adoptions also, though naturally fewer in proportion to their area. There are, however, many places as hardly hit as parts of the special areas, some of which now receive help while others need and would welcome assistance.

No amount of money is too small provided that a certain amount of regularity can be assured. A few pounds a month can do a great deal of good if a club committee knows that every month some definite sum will be forthcoming. They can plan ahead in a way which is not possible if they are not able to count on some definite regular income.

But quite apart from the financial aspect, an Adoption scheme can bring to the unemployed members of a club in a distressed area a realisation that there are people in more happy circumstances willing to be their friends. It has been found from experience that this feeling of friendship plays a very great part in easing the drabness and monotony of the lives of the unemployed in their enforced idleness.

Usually an adopted centre sends a monthly report to the Adopting Association, and, when any members of an

Association happen to be within reasonable distance of the adopted centre, visits are paid and the personal contact thus formed plays a great part in the scheme.

Leadership

There is another very special use also for the contributions of an Adopting Association. In a depressed mining village or industrial town it is often found that there is nobody who



An unposed snapshot, taken in one of the Occupational clubs in County Durham. It is to give such men as he the chance to join in worth-while activities that the clubs are being formed

can give the leadership and inspiration which are vital to the success of a club. It is essential that there should be a leader who can give all his time to the work of the club, planning programmes and keeping the right balance between various activities. It is hardly ever possible to find someone of sufficient personality who is able to give his time voluntarily to this work, and it is generally necessary to pay a salary in order to secure the right type of leader. The Social Service Associations in many Government Departments are providing wardens for the clubs which they have adopted and the results are proving very satisfactory.

As the representative of Nalگو on the National Council of Social Service, I am aware that efforts have been made in the direction of establishing Adoption Associations in the Local Government Service, but without any known measure of success. In fact, a representative of one of the areas covered by the National Council received a communication from a Nalگو Branch to the effect that they were unable to assist in this matter in view of the fact that they were making special efforts to increase support for Nalگو's Benevolent and Orphan Fund. Knowing the good will and effort of Nalگو members in support of their needy or distressed colleagues and their dependants, I feel that an appeal for an extension of our financial help to those of our fellows in the distressed areas, faced with many bleak years of unemployment, will find a response. I should therefore be pleased to hear from any Branch that they are prepared to consider or have considered rendering help in the direction indicated, and if so the measure of their success. Let us as Local Government Officers fall into line with our colleagues in the Civil Service and lend a hand.

N.A.L.G.O.'s EDUCATIONAL TOUR UNITED STATES and CANADA

Places of Interest to be Visited—No. 5

NIAGARA FALLS

Unrivalled Spectacle of Scenic Grandeur

ONE of the most famous sightseeing centres in the world, Niagara Falls naturally occupies a prominent place in the itinerary of the educational tour being arranged for the National Association of Local Government Officers' party. Despite their extraordinary popularity, they have happily escaped any dangers of becoming vulgarised. Their majestic beauty is indeed too vast and elemental to suffer from any human interference. Even the huge hydro-electric power stations on either side of the Niagara River are so placed that they do not detract from the magnificent spectacle of the falls themselves. These power houses are open for inspection, and a most interesting time can be spent in examining the modern methods of harnessing the waters. It is estimated that the maximum horse-power capable of development exceeds five million, which is equal to the aggregate horse-power used in Great Britain.

There are actually two towns of Niagara, one in Canada, and the other in the State of New York. As one can easily imagine, there is much friendly rivalry between the American and the Canadian, each claiming that the beauty of the falls can only be appreciated to the full extent from his side. The two townships are connected by the great international bridge, and no visitors are allowed to cross this without having their passports examined at each end.

The American Falls are 1,080 feet long at the crest (only sixty feet longer than the "Queen Mary"!) with a height of 168 feet, whilst the Canadian or Horse Shoe Falls are 2,010 feet long, and about ten feet lower. It is estimated that ninety-five per cent. of the water flows over the

Canadian Falls and only five per cent. over the American. Consequently it is not surprising to learn that the Horseshoe cataract recedes at the rate of about four to five feet a year, whilst the American Falls remain practically unchanged, having retired only a few inches in generations.

To realise their full grandeur, they should be viewed again and again, in their many varying moods of sunshine or shade, both by day and by night. There is a constant roar from the falling deluge of water, and wonderful rainbow effects are produced by the clouds of spray in which the mighty cataracts are constantly bathed. In winter immense icicles of weird shapes hang from the rocky cliffs and the spectacle is one of fantastic loveliness.

And by night in the summer, whether one appreciates the colour lighting effects or not, the spectacle of the surging waters brought into bold relief against the darkness is wonderfully impressive. Many people are thrilled with this veritable fairyland of colour, whilst others find the falls even more entrancing as they are first revealed in the splendour of pure white flood-lighting.

It is a pity that so many visitors are unable to afford more than a few hours or a day at the falls, when the whole neighbourhood abounds in sights worth seeing. One certainly should not miss a trip in the little "Maid of the Mist" steamer which carries visitors (well protected in oilskins and sou'westers) right past the foot of the American Falls, and almost to the foot of the wall of falling water below the Horseshoe or Canadian Falls.

Another exciting trip can be made by the aerial car which spans the Whirlpool

Rapids at a dizzy height on a series of cables. Viewed from here the mass of turbulent water rushing down the incline at the bottom of the gorge is almost as impressive as the falls themselves.

A fine view of the Niagara River and the whole countryside as far as Lake Ontario can be obtained from the Brock Monument on Queenston Heights. From Queenston there are wonderful drives on either side of the river to Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort George, on the Canadian side, and through Lewiston to historic Fort Niagara on the American side. All this country is very beautiful, and the famous old fortresses have many interesting relics of early trading with the Indians and the fierce struggles of the American War of Independence.

Illustrated brochure giving details of this tour are obtainable from: Special Activities Department, N. A. L. G. O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

N.A.L.G.O.

HOLIDAY CENTRES

With only a few exceptions, both Holiday Centres are fully booked from the 19th JUNE to the 11th SEPTEMBER

Make immediate application for your May or June Holiday

WHITSUN - 8/- per day

Apply for Booking Form to:

**N.A.L.G.O., Special Activities Dept.,
24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1**



Niagara Falls

N.A.L.G.O. BLAZERS

Order your N.A.L.G.O. Blazer now, before the manufacturers are busily engaged on the mid-summer demand.

● Price: best quality 28/6
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Illustrated colours, price list and self-measurement form from—

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24, ABINGDON ST., LONDON, S.W.1**

At Random

By "HYPERION"

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS IS NEVER TO ALLOW YOUR ENERGIES TO STAGNATE

Adam Clarke

Sidelights on the Coronation

The question of roasting an ox whole in public on Coronation Day is causing considerable fuss in those constituencies where the vegetarian vote is strong.

A deputation called at the House of Commons yesterday, carrying a banner bearing the words, "Why Not Roast This Whole?" Underneath was a passable representation of a leek.

One nervous member was fetched from his seat in the House to attend to an angry, red-faced man who said, without waiting to have his hand shaken: "They will be roasting elephants next. Is this what I elected you for, sir? Is this what you draw your salary for?"

The nervous member made a sign to the policeman who stood near by, and the protester was led out, bawling as he went: "How would the Prime Minister like to be roasted whole? Eh? Ha! You can't answer that!"

— "*Beachcomber*" in the "*Daily Express*."

Red, white and blue "goldfish." This patriotic colour scheme has been achieved by careful breeding by Mr. A. Cree, a rural district councillor at Arlesley, Bedfordshire. The colours are distinct and clearly marked, and Mr. Cree proposes to exhibit the fish on the village green on Coronation Day as part of the local celebrations.

— "*Observer*."

Coronation mice, 1 red, 1 white, 1 blue. The three in cage, 5s. complete.

— "*Cage Birds*."

Someone who modestly calls himself "An Ulster-Scot" seems to have got in first with Coronation poetry.

He sends from Belfast a sixpenny booklet called "Sing to Britannia's Glory." I wish I could quote it all.

First poem, "A Coronation Hymn," opens:

*Rejoice and, with exceeding joy,
Proclaim the nuptial day;
King George he weds the British Crown,
And easy may it lay.*

Note the daring metaphor in the third line, the even more daring poetic hyperbole in the sixth line, the ebullient optimism of the last line in the following stanza:

*My flag it is the Union Jack,
And we, the chosen few,
We're every one of us baptised
In her Red, White and Blue.
By Heaven's command she rules our land,
As every other, too;
And I believe, right to the end,
'Tis what she'll always do.*

There is a homely admonition to "Ye Little Folks of Britain," ending:

*So ever thank your Maker,
And don't forget that He
Expects you to be British,
And don't forget to be.*

But the most directly moving poem in the book is perhaps "Our Empire Song of Prayer," with its noble refrain:

*Marching unto glory
In the Name of God,
Fighting in His Honour
For our Empire sod.*
—William Hickey.

Those Accursed Cars!

I do not own a car, and cannot drive one. Thank heavens! I was going to say, but that sounds rather like sour-grapes hypocrisy. If I could afford a chauffeur-mechanic, I should probably have one. But for all that a car is a diabolical thing. Its brutish obstinacy, its lack of intelligence, its noise, its dirt, its stink revolt the soul. It is far worse to start up a cold engine than to catch a frisky horse. . . . Of all the humiliations suffered since the Fall by much-enduring man, surely the worst is to lie on your back in the dirt beneath the Juggernaut, fumbling in its greasy, stinking entrails, while slimy drops of thick black oil ooze down upon your red and sweating face.—From "*Highland Home-spun*," by Margaret M. Leigh.

Income-Tax Returns

The evidence of the accused is that in this pronouncement (which is headed NOTE AS TO THE RELIEF WHICH MAY BE CLAIMED BY TAXPAYERS) there are nearly two hundred words; that, after reading the first fifty words, he laughed heartily; that he then began again and read the whole passage through from start to finish six or seven times; first silently, then aloud, and finally singing to a chant of B minor; that after these exhaustive experiments the words still conveyed no meaning to his mind whatever; that he concluded that not even a Government Department could have issued to the whole body of income-tax payers two hundred words entirely devoid of sense or meaning; that therefore his first impression was probably correct and the whole form a base, practical joke, to which he replied in the same spirit and kind.—From "*Misleading Cases in the Common Law*," by A. P. Herbert.

Laundry Bill

Here is a laundry bill made out by a Japanese who did business with English residents in Kobe:

Trousers: 10 sen.
Married trousers: 15 sen.
She shirt: 25 sen.
He shirt: 20 sen.
Lot foot bags: 50 yen.
Lot leg bags: 75 yen.
Notice: Ladies front backs no can washee!

ALL MANKIND'S CONCERN

Weekly Allowances

A widow aged 46 years is left practically destitute on the death of her husband, with the exception of a small sum earned by her daughter aged 18 years. There is also another daughter aged 16 years who will be able to contribute to the family income immediately she has served her apprenticeship. Widow is in a very poor state of health which necessitates regular medical attention. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a substantial weekly allowance to this widow until such time as the circumstances of the family improve, and has also made a grant towards the cost of the medical treatment.

A young member aged 23 years has been left with his mother, two sisters, and a brother dependent upon him. The elder sister is an invalid, and the other brother and sister are still attending school. The invalid sister has to attend hospital periodically to receive special treatment and an ambulance has to be provided at a cost of £1 for each journey. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly allowance in this case and also a grant towards the settlement of various outstanding debts which have accrued owing to the extra expenditure incurred by the sister's illness.

A widow aged 58 years has been left with a daughter aged 18 years dependent upon her. Widow is destitute except for a very small sum earned by her daughter and an amount left her in respect of superannuation contributions returned. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a grant in this case to assist towards the support of the widow and her daughter.

Lump Sum Grants

A member aged 28 years with a wife and five small children dependent upon him contracted rheumatic fever and was admitted to hospital for several weeks. After he recovered he was advised to obtain convalescent home treatment, and arrangements have therefore been made for him to be admitted to Nalگو House, Matlock, for a period of two weeks, free of charge, together with a grant to cover the cost of his return railway fare. The Branch has advanced various payments to this member to assist him over a difficult period and this sum will be repaid by the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

A member aged 33 years with a wife and daughter aged one year dependent upon him has had considerable expense recently owing to the very serious illness of his wife over a period of twelve months. Accounts from doctors, nurses, and hospital have had to be met, which have proved a serious drain on member's resources. He was at last compelled to make application to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund for a grant to enable him to settle the accounts which are due.

Temporary Advances

A member aged 38 years with a wife and two children aged 13 and 8 years dependent upon him, fell into financial difficulties owing to the illness of his elder child, which lasted for several months. He found that he was unable to meet the accounts for rates, coal, etc. The case was brought to the notice of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund and a sum has been advanced to the member to enable him to settle the accounts which are due.

What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND PARTY POLITICS

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—There has been some discussion of late in your columns with regard to the holding of political views by Local Government Officers, and as far as I can see, everyone is unanimous against this. May I put forward the opposing viewpoint?

In the first place, it must be agreed, I think, that any person's private views must have some effect upon their daily life and normal activities, whether they be views upon politics or anything else. Local Government Officers are rightly regarded as being the largest group of knowledgeable and intelligent people in the country. Is it to be desired that this large and influential body should have no ideas upon the running of the country they live in? I suggest that it is not only desirable but essential that this body does have very definite opinions upon the sociological and economic welfare of the community; I suggest that we have a duty, as a body, of both stopping reaction and of preventing the necessity of revolution; in short, we can make or mar democracy. But before we can exercise this function, each individually must form their own opinions; and for this a careful study of the various political programmes is necessary.

Now with regard to active work for any particular sect or party. Is a man condemned for being, say, a lay reader? Then why should a man be condemned for spreading any other views? If it is because they are not in accord with the views of the majority, where is our much vaunted freedom of speech?

Finally, I would suggest that the man who is alive to the economic conditions of the masses will work far more thoroughly and conscientiously, in for example, Public Health than will another who is not politically awake; he has something other than payday to inspire him.

Yours, etc., B.

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

DEAR SIR,—I am interested in the letter of Ad Vitam Aut Culpam. Thoughtful members will ponder over his points. The road is strewn with difficulties, and they must be surmounted. Shall a L.G.O. entirely debar himself from an interest in his country's affairs, or use discretion to such a degree as to make any effort useless. No doubt many officers could quote cases with myself where a disinterested word or two might alter for the best the course of opinion, so easily swayed to-day by prevailing "isms."

It is readily admitted that all who take an active interest, even as in our case, only mental, in the country's affairs, are those who ultimately pull things round.

And to quote your correspondent, how many in the L. G. Service are prepared to give up all such interest, for the honour of serving the community.

Yours faithfully,
ENGLANDER.

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—The expression of views on the above subject which has appeared in recent issues is useful but, I am afraid, as is customary on such occasions, only the party enthusiast is occupying the rostrum.

There are a large number of us who are not anxious to air our politics, but we are quite capable of sifting the chaff from the wheat (if there is any wheat left when we have sifted) and put a cross against the wheat before putting the paper into the ballot box.

What nauseates me is the attitude of unctuous righteousness which the party hack assumes and in that respect the degree of objectionableness is the same in the County Council Tory and the South Wales Socialist.

I have read the comments in the LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE and I do not interpret them as your correspondents have done. In the first place I think they have rightly defended the policy of N.A.L.G.O. to keep out of all alliances which may give the impression that the Association supports any particular political party. Secondly, whilst the comments have stressed the point that every Local Government Officer should retain all the rights of citizenship, they also show their political partizanship must run risks of misinterpretation of action so long as their employers are political party nominees.

Yours, etc.,
OLD MAN.

BRANCH MAGAZINE

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Several months ago a letter appeared in these columns in connection with a proposed meeting of Branch Editors at Margate during 1937 Conference.

I hope some way will be found to arrange a meeting of this nature so that we may discuss our various problems and experiences.

A greatly improved and enlarged second edition of Gravesend's Branch Mag., "The Pastepot," has just been published and I shall be glad to send interested members a specimen copy at 6d. (post free). Profits at each year end will go to B. & O. Fund.

A. G. JURY,
Hon. Secretary.

5, Woodville Terrace,
Gravesend.

THE APATHETIC MEMBER

SIR,—So far I have not seen any concrete suggestions for reorganising the branches, to break down this apathetic complex. I myself am hardly an apathetic member, for I make good use of our N.A.L.G.O. "Trading undertakings." But there are some of my co-workers who are "apathetic," and look upon the monthly subs. as though they are being bled for something that will never benefit them. Well, I hope they will not need the assistance of our legal headquarters; but who knows?

When I tell them that I still make a profit on premiums, etc., after the addition of my subs., they just say I am lucky and think themselves unlucky.

Now for the social side of our activities. In our branch there are some who either can't be bothered coming to the Annual Dinner or say they can't afford; the same happens at the Annual Outing. No one should plead absence at these two functions. Dances and other social functions one cannot expect all to attend, and we have to depend on outsiders if we are to remember the B. & O. Fund.

With this in view I suggest that, with the approval of Headquarters, and, of course, the local members, that a larger sub. card be supplied to accommodate a double entry each month, one being the N.A.L.G.O. subs., with a yearly percentage deduction for the B. & O. Fund instead of the 2½d., and the second column for the local subs. to cover cost of annual dinner, outing, and perhaps one dance. If we allowed, say, 5s. for the dinner, 12s. 6d. for the outing, and 2s. 6d. for a dance, it would only mean 1s. 8d. per month in addition to their subs. Local arrangements could be made for special cases, balances, and deficits.

This would ensure that all could feel some benefit from the Association and eliminate the possibility, that sometimes happens locally, of individuals feeling that they are "left out."

The writer, "Wide Awake," may be unfortunate; I myself suffer from his last two hardships, but on the whole the L.G.O.'s do as well as industrial undertakings, and we must, when asking for better service, remember that most of our Councils represent industry and approach them carefully. I do not wish to see the N.A.L.G.O. develop into a Trade Union and demand its wants, it is far better to try and strive for the atmosphere of co-operation.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. FUTURE.

**NALGO APPROVED
SOCIETY**
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 15th May, 1937
at 5.30.p.m. in the
Winter Gardens, MARGATE

Scottish Notes

THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL

THE Scottish Council held its Spring meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday, April 3, when there was a large turn out of representatives from the Branches.

Death of Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B.

Before proceeding with the business, the Chairman made sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B., who had so recently taken over the onerous duties of his new office of Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Scotland. Those who knew Mr. Highton had great hopes for his future, and his untimely demise was a disappointment to many. He had been greatly interested in Nalگو's educational work, and a few years ago had instituted a prize for annual competition in connection with our Summer School. The Association was represented at his funeral by Mr. George S. Fraser, our honorary solicitor, and Mr. J. M. Mortimer. Our sympathy went out to those left behind. At the chairman's request the meeting stood in silence as a token of respect for his memory.

Superannuation Bill

The most important items considered at the meeting were the Compulsory Superannuation Bill in its application to Scotland, the Scottish Whitley Council, and the arrangements for the Summer School at St. Andrews. It is very annoying not to be able, at the time of writing, to give full details about the Superannuation Bill or the negotiations which have taken place regarding the Whitley Council. The Bill is now drafted, but it is still a private and confidential document which has not yet been submitted to the House. Our Scottish members may rest assured, however, that the various points which they have raised are receiving attention. The Scottish Council were well satisfied with the report submitted on this subject.

Whitley Council

Unfortunately, with regard to the Whitley Council the report was not so cheerful, for it was to the effect that the County Councils' Association had not yet appointed their representatives but, at a meeting on March 18, had decided to delay a decision until their Annual Meeting on April 22. This delay is certainly very distressing, for one or two councils have remitted questions to the Whitley Council for their consideration, and these cases are all being held up. The secretary made a full statement regarding his interviews and negotiations, and the meeting was satisfied that everything was being done that could be done.

Scottish Summer School

Mr. Pettigrew, in the absence of Mr. John Campbell, the convener, submitted the report of a meeting of the Education Committee. He stated that the syllabus for the Scottish Summer School had now been sent to Branches. The school was to be held from July 3 to 10 at St. Andrews University. The Lord Provost of Aberdeen would open the school at the Inaugural Dinner on the evening of Saturday, July 3, and the principal lecturers would be Dr. Robson and Mr. Charles H. Wilson, M.A., both of London. The lectures would be of exceptional interest as they

dealt with local government in Stockholm, Moscow, London, Berlin and Paris.

Glasgow School of Social Study

It had been suggested by the director of the school that N.A.L.G.O. be represented on the board of management, and it was agreed to appoint Mr. John Campbell the convener of the education committee, and Mr. Pettigrew, should it be discovered that we have a right to two representatives.

Course of Study in Registration Law

There had been submitted to the education committee a letter from the Glasgow Assistant Registrars Association asking that this course be held up until fuller particulars had been obtained. It was agreed that we meet with representatives of the Association if they so desired, but it was reported that the Registrars' Association, who were wholly in favour of the course of study, had drawn up rules for an examination which, it was believed, would meet the objections of the assistants.

Annual Sports Day

Mr. S. H. Brodie submitted a minute of the Sports Committee which recommended that the Sports Day be held this year at Perth on September 11. It was agreed that the competitions in golf and bowling be as in former years, and to write to branches for suggestions regarding the tennis competition.

Propaganda

Mr. Galbraith submitted a report of the Propaganda Committee which showed that successful meetings had been held in Ayr, Greenock, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy, and it was agreed that a special circular be prepared for issue to non-members, especially in county areas.

Scottish Guest House

A number of questions were asked regarding the proposed Scottish Guest House, the Holiday Camps, etc. The chairman explained that the National Executive Council were not unsympathetic towards the proposal of a guest house in Scotland, but they had decided that it would be unwise to purchase a new guest house at the moment. The idea had not been abandoned, but the council wishes to see their way more clearly before embarking on fresh expenditure.

Divisional Secretary's Report

The divisional secretary gave a brief report regarding salary negotiations in Lanarkshire, Stirlingshire, Ayrshire, Aberdeen, Gourock, Ardrossan, Dundee and Motherwell. He also reported regarding proposed superannuation schemes for Wigtownshire, Argyllshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, West Lothian, and the Burgh of Perth. Mention was also made by him to his interviews with regard to the Compulsory Superannuation Bill and the establishment of the Whitley Council.

The divisional secretary also reported that a memorandum had been sent to the Scottish Education Department regarding school instruction in local government, and that, following thereon, a deputation consisting of Mr. R. C. T. Mair, M.C., LL.B., Director of Education, Lanarkshire, Mr. Robert Wood, Director of Education, Berwickshire, and himself had waited on the department. Their representations had been most sympathetically received, and he was hopeful that appropriate action would be taken by the department.

Annual Conference Agenda

The meeting thereafter went over the agenda for the Annual Conference, and it was agreed to send for the final agenda two considered amendments, one dealing with salaries and service conditions, and another suggesting that a rebate of 40 per cent of the annual subscription be given to all branches.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in Dundee on September 18.

After the meeting, Edinburgh Branch kindly entertained the delegates to high tea, and at this function the chairman took occasion to thank Mr. William Wilson, of Fife, who is retiring from the N.E.C., and meantime from the Scottish Council, for the long and faithful service he had given to the Association, and he expressed the hope that we had not seen the last of Mr. Wilson on our district committee. Mr. Wilson, in reply, said that his association with N.A.L.G.O. had always been a pleasure to him, and that he would still continue to take a deep interest in its affairs.

Social Functions

Lanarkshire Branch. The Annual Social of the branch took place in the Grand Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, March 20. Mr. R. C. T. Mair, Director of Education for Lanarkshire, presided and, among others, he was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson (Uddingston) and Mr. and Mrs. Ogilvie (Hamilton). About 120 members and their friends were present. After tea, whist was played, and a programme of music and dancing was also carried through. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent, everyone being delighted with the arrangements made.

Renfrewshire Branch. On behalf of the B. & O. Fund, the branch held a social meeting in Paisley on March 23. There was a large attendance and, after whist, the company sat down to tea, when Mr. W. Young presided. The prizes to the whist winners were distributed by Mrs. Ballantyne, the Lady Provost, and the Provost addressed the gathering in his usual happy style. Votes of thanks were moved by Mr. Mortimer. A very enjoyable programme of dancing was sustained throughout the evening, and altogether the function was most successful.

West Lothian Branch held its Annual Whist Drive and Dance, on March 19, in the Star and Garter Hotel, Linlithgow, when a very happy company were gathered together. After whist, tea was served, Mr. Hailstones, presiding. Mr. Mortimer and Mrs. Hailstones presented the prizes, and thereafter made a few remarks regarding the present-day happenings of the Association. The dancing which followed was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a very happy evening was spent.

On March 12, 1937, the Annual Dance of the **Scottish Eastern Border Counties Branch** was held in the Playhouse Café Rooms, Galashiels. It is gratifying to report that the function was well attended, especially considering that, as a result of the heavy snowstorm which swept the country at that time, the roads in the wide area of the branch generally presented extremely bad conditions for motoring, and in some instances were completely impassable.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED BY RADIO

Professor Hilton on November 19th, 1936, from the B.B.C. broadcast a warning. The warning was to the effect that while there are many really good and reliable Colleges teaching by correspondence, there are many others which are colleges by name only. He said some so-called colleges rented a couple of rooms in a large building in a well-known street. Some made great promises which they did not intend to fulfil. Some claimed successes they could not prove. In some cases the names of prominent men were quoted who were in no way connected with the working of the college.

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the brain, but the best thing to study, surely, is a course specially prepared to teach your own vocation, or prepare you for the examination which you have in view. Knowing that you are master of your job gives you self-confidence and personality, but a Diploma from a college is absolute proof of your efficiency. We have agencies in all English-speaking corners of the world. The nature of our business makes us keep in touch with employment requirements in all parts of the world, therefore we specialise in preparing students for the good positions which we know exist, and for all the worthwhile examinations.

THE ABOVE VAST ORGANISATION CAN HAVE BEEN CREATED ONLY BY THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS

There is a tide in the affairs of man which, if taken at the flood, leads on to fortune and success. There are three things which come not back; the sped arrow, the spoken word, and the lost opportunity—this is your opportunity. If it is your desire to make progress and establish yourself in a good career, write to us for free particulars on any subject which interests you, or if your career is not decided write and tell us of your likes and dislikes, and we will give you practical advice as to the possibilities of a vocation and how to succeed in it. You will be under no obligation whatever. It is our pleasure to help. We never take students for courses unless we feel satisfied they are suitable. Do not forget that success is not the prerogative of the brilliant. Our experience of over 30 years proves that the will to succeed achieves more than outstanding brilliancy.



Prof. Hilton

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Salaries and Service Conditions

Superannuation

THE following authorities have adopted the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922:

Maidstone R.D.C., Appointed Day, April 1, 1937.

Abertillery U.D.C., Appointed Day, April 1, 1937.

Darlaston U.D.C., Appointed Day, October 1, 1936.

Blackwell R.D.C.

Isle of Anglesey County Council, Appointed Day, April 1, 1937. The Borough, Urban and Rural Authorities within the County are being invited to join in the Scheme.

Tipton Urban District Council has passed the first resolution.

The County Borough of **Grimsby** is obtaining an Actuarial Report.

Tunbridge Wells Town Council has adopted a Grading Scheme and Conditions of Service which came into operation on April 1, 1937. Grade A commences at £52 per annum rising by annual increments of £13 to a maximum of £104 per annum. Grade B commences at £120 per annum rising by annual increments of £15 to a maximum of £210. Grade C commences at £225 per annum rising by annual increments of £15 to a maximum of £270 per annum. Grade D commences at £290 per annum rising by annual increments of £15 to a maximum of £350 per annum. Grade E commences at £370 per annum rising by annual increments of £15 to a maximum of £430. Lady typists are placed in a scale commencing at £90 per annum rising by annual increments of £10 to a maximum of £150 per annum. The Health Visitor's scale commences at £200 per annum rising by annual increments of £10 to a maximum of £250 per annum. Conditions of service, covering Office Hours, Holidays, Sickness, Recruitment, Examination Successes, Superannuation and other matters have been agreed upon.

On the application of the Branch, supported by the Divisional Secretary at a meeting of the Salaries Committee, the **Wednesbury** Town Council has approved an improved scale of salaries. A number of Officers have also been re-graded.

The **West Bromwich** County Borough Council has approved a revised scale of salaries. This represents an all-round improvement on the old scale.

An application for a revision of the Scale was made by the Branch, and a deputation, which included the Divisional Secretary, was received by the Salaries Committee.

Nine clerks employed at the Rates Department of the **Merthyr Tydfil** Corporation have recently been granted an increase of £13 each per annum. This concession, although falling short of the local Branch's application, has been obtained after repeated demands by the staff side of the Joint Staff Committee.

Primarily as the result of an application by the **Merthyr Tydfil** Branch, the junior assistants at the Central Library have been placed on the following scale:

Grade A—£50 (on appointment) by £10 per annum to £80.

Grade B—£90 by £10 per annum to £120; this grade is subject to satisfactory service being given in the first grade, and to possession of Library Association certificates.

The divisional Secretary and an Organizer of the National Union of Clerks met the Staff Joint Committee of the **Neath** Borough Council regarding the salaries of the Gas Department Officials. Seven are Members of N.A.L.G.O. and six out of the seven were granted increases dated back to April 1, 1936, and consideration of another was deferred. No other cases were considered at the meeting.

A deputation, consisting of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Hon. Secretary and the Divisional Secretary has met the Salaries Committee of the **Nottingham** City Council in support of an application for improved salaries for junior officers, women officers and matters relating to the Superannuation Scheme.

The **Bury** Corporation have recently revised their scales of salaries. Juniors now progress from £46 per annum at 16 years of age to £120 at 21 years of age. Grade C, with a former maximum of £174, has been increased to £200 per annum. Grade B, with a former maximum of £240, has been increased to £260, and Grade A, with a former maximum of £288, has been increased to £300. The increments are standardised at £10 per annum.

The **Penarth** Urban District Council has agreed to establish a Staff Joint Committee. At the first meeting an improved scale of holidays and a scale of sick pay were approved. The scale of holidays is:

The Surveyor and Chief Financial Officer, a minimum of 21 working days rising to 24 working days after 5 years' service.

All Other Officials:

Under 5 years' service—12 working days.
Over 5 and under 10 years' service—14 working days.

Over 10 and under 15 years' service—16 working days.

Over 15 years' service—18 working days.

Service is defined as "any Local Government Service."

At a recent meeting of the **Swinton** and **Pendlebury** Council a resolution was passed agreeing to the granting of compensating leave for chief officials and staff concerned in attending evening meetings of the council, and the heads of departments have been requested to make the necessary internal arrangements.

The **East Ham** Branch will hold its second annual athletic meeting on Saturday, June 26, 1937, at Fairburn House Sports Ground, East Ham.

TRADE AND THE CORONATION

Employers Unite in Gift of Souvenir Programmes

Trade and industry throughout Britain is co-operating loyally in making the forthcoming Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth an event of strong and intimate significance to millions of employees.

Not the least effective and generous method that is being widely adopted is the presentation of copies of the beautiful and comprehensive Official Souvenir Programme to the rank and file of shops, offices and factories.

It is a splendid gesture, one that will strengthen even further the ties between employer and employee at a time when all classes are united in hope for the reign which now begins.

The Official Souvenir Programme has been prepared with the King's full approval, and His Majesty is anxious that it shall be in the hands of as many of his subjects as possible, particularly those who, being far from London, will follow the events of the historic occasion by radio.

At His Majesty's express wish, this Official Programme is published by and on behalf of King George's Jubilee Trust. So that those employers who distribute presentation copies will not only be paying a gracious compliment to those now in their employ, but will be helping to promote the welfare of those who will be the workers of to-morrow.

Many firms, from insurance companies to shipping lines, from bankers to men's wear experts, have not rested content with merely a staff presentation scheme, but have extended it to cover their customers and clients. The result has been orders for many thousands of programmes wrapped with specially printed presentation bands.

Such firms include—and those mentioned are chosen at random from a lengthy list—the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd.; the Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd., the Philco Radio and Television Corporation of Great Britain, Ltd., Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, Ltd., Austin Reed, Ltd., the Cunard White Star Line, the Automobile Association, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Bryant and May, Ltd.

Supplies in any quantity are available from King George's Jubilee Trust, but only if ordered without delay.

To present a copy of the Official Souvenir Programme is to make a gift that will be treasured for many years to come. As well as being the only authentic guide to the Coronation it is a production on a scale compatible with the occasion, a thing of beauty, dignity and historic worth.

Embossed on the cover is the Royal Coat of Arms in full colours and gold. There is a personal message from His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, and special photographs of Their Majesties the King and Queen, Her Majesty Queen Mary, and Their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, has contributed "A Prayer for the King's Reign," and the late Mr. John Drinkwater an article on "The King's Majesty," in which he outlines the significance of the new reign to the Empire.

A pictorial map of the route, a description of the procession, the full text of the Service in the Abbey, with an introduction by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and a description of the Coronation Ceremony by the Garter Principal King of Arms all make the Official Programme a vital key to the pageantry and solemnity of May 12.

The Programme is available in two editions—a standard edition at 1s. and a special edition at 2s. 6d. All applications should be addressed to King George's Jubilee Trust, St. James's Palace, S.W.

Summer Schools, 1937

BY the time this issue of the Journal reaches members, the booklet with regard to the Summer Schools will have been circulated. The booklet contains full details of the schools, but the following information will be of interest to those who have not yet had an opportunity of perusing a copy of the Summer Schools booklet.

The **Scottish summer school** will be held from July 3 to July 10 at St. Andrews University. Students will be accommodated in St. Salvator's Hall, and the charge for those residing in college will be 9s. 6d. per day. The school will be opened by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen (Edward W. Watt, Esq., M.A.). Lectures will be delivered on Five Capital Cities To-day. Three lectures will be given by Dr. W. A. Robson, of London University, on Stockholm, Moscow, and London. Two lectures will be given by C. H. Wilson, Esq. M.A., Lecturer on Political Science, at the London School of Economics, on Berlin and Paris. In addition, after-dinner talks have been arranged, and discussions will take place at the conclusion of each lecture and talk.

The **English summer school** will be held at Lincoln College, Oxford, from July 17 to July 24. The lectures at the school will deal with planning in local government. The lectures will be divided into three groups, consisting of three lectures in each group, and a seminar or discussion class will be held at the conclusion of each group of lectures. The following lectures will be delivered:

Group I. The Changing Structure of Local Government, by Dr. Herman Finer, Reader in Public Administration in the University of London.

Group II. The Theory and Practice of Planning, by Sir Gwilym Gibbon, ex-

Principal Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

Group III. Planning Local Government from Within, by Mr. T. S. Simey, Lecturer in Public Administration at the University of Liverpool.

The charges for the school will be at the rate of 10s. 6d. per day.

The **Paris summer school** will be held at the Cité Universitaire, Paris, from July 3 to July 10. Professor Paul Vaucher, Secretary of the Council of Social Research, University of Paris, and Professor of Modern French History and Institutions in the University of London, will deliver five lectures dealing with The Administration of the City of Paris, The History and Development of French Public Administration, French Municipal Government and Centralisation, and Present-Day Problems in French Public Administration. In addition, the following lectures will be delivered:

Public Health in France, by Dr. Hazemann, of the Ministry of Public Health.

Poor Law Administration in France, by M. Gauscen, Archiviste de l'administration générale.

French Housing Problems, by M. Oualaid, Deputy Director of the Institut d'Urbanisme.

The State System of Education in France, by M. C. A. Desclos, Director of the College Franco-Britannique, Cité Universitaire, Université de Paris.

Visits to various centres of public administration and local government institutions are also being arranged.

The fee for the Paris summer school, which includes travelling from London to Paris, return, accommodation for the week, attendance at lectures, visits, etc., will be £7.

EASTERN DISTRICT WEEK-END SCHOOL

The Community and the Local Authority

THE Cambridge District Group Area Education Committee, on behalf of the Eastern District Committee, arranged a Week-end School which was held at Peterhouse, Cambridge, on Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21, 1937. About thirty students attended the school, and it was early evident that a happy, social atmosphere would pervade throughout the school. E. W. Woodhead, Esq., M.A., Director of Education of Norwich, acted as chairman, and at the commencement of the proceedings outlined the purpose of the week-end school, indicating that a school could only be regarded as successful educationally if it stimulated thought amongst Local Government Officers. In excellent brief speeches Mr. Woodhead introduced the lecturers, Professor Barker and Mr. L. Hill.

After tea on Saturday the students assembled to hear Professor Ernest Barker, Litt.D., deliver a lecture on "The relation of the local community to the local authority." A report on Professor Barker's lecture is given elsewhere in this issue.

At the conclusion of the lecture the students participated in a very interesting discussion on the points raised by Professor Barker. Sincere appreciation of the lecture was expressed, and all those who were privileged to hear the lecture agreed that they had obtained food for thought, and thanked Professor Barker for the way in which he had opened up new problems for consideration.

By kind permission of the College authorities the students dined in Peterhouse, where the master graced the assembly with his presence, and the opportunity afforded of meeting so eminent a man as Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood—Birdwood of Anzac fame—Master of Peterhouse, was greatly appreciated by those present.

After dinner a social evening was arranged, including community singing and humorous and dramatic items by various students and members of the Cambridge County and Borough branches. The Cambridgeshire County Branch Dramatic Society gave a humorous sketch, which was enthusiastically applauded.

On Sunday morning a lecture on "The Ratepayer and the Local Government Officer" was delivered by L. Hill, Esq., C.B.E., M.A., who referred to Local Government officers as purveyors of Local Government, and suggested that local authorities should take steps to ensure that the public were made fully aware of the services received in return for the payment of rates. He also stressed the fact that the Local Government officer had a peculiar duty to the community, and then proceeded to outline the qualities essential to the successful administrator. Mr. Hill said "enthusiasm for truth distinguishes the philosopher; ardour for justice makes the jurist; an emotion for righteousness gives us the moralist, and a passion for the commonweal is the measure of a public servant."

At the conclusion of the proceedings a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturers; to the chairman, Mr. E. W. Woodhead; to Mr. R. P. Thorne, B.A., chairman of the Group Area Education Committee; and to Mr. S. W. Edwards, secretary of the Area Education Committee, through whose efforts the school had been made possible.

On Sunday afternoon a party of students were conducted round the various colleges by Dr. Robinson, formerly County Medical Officer of Health.

All those who were privileged to attend the week-end school expressed the hope that further week-end schools would be arranged, and departed from Cambridge with new thoughts and with new friendships.

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A HOLIDAY AT CROYDE

By Bayonian

The following article is one of the prize-winning entries in the "Beano, 1937" competitions, and we are indebted to the editor of that bright and breezy publication for his permission to reproduce it in the pages of "Local Government Service."

The Association's Holiday Centres are now well established, and publicity is unnecessary, but there must be many members who have very little idea of the enjoyment obtained from such a holiday. The following brief description of a typical week at Croyde (where "shop talk" is taboo) is submitted in an endeavour to bring to the notice of all members the advantages and benefits of such a happy and carefree holiday.

To the shy and nervous it should be pointed out at the outset that everything is informal and easy-going men wear no ties, ladies no stockings (by order), and everything is done to make the visit enjoyable.

If proceeding by train, the railway ticket can be obtained from Headquarters, who also supply luggage labels, reserve seats, etc. Upon arrival at the Centre on the Saturday afternoon, the Camper reports at the Office, where he is welcomed and advised of his Hut number and the table at which he is to sit at meal-times.

The Bungalows

The bungalows (or huts) are grouped around the main green, or one of the three smaller greens, according to the type and size (i.e. single, double, family, etc.). In proceeding to his own bungalow the new arrival will pass such abodes as "The Glory 'Ole," "The Spinster's Paradise," or "The Travellers' Inn." No detailed description of the bungalows is necessary, but everything is provided to ensure comfort, and any suggestion of "camping" or "roughing-it" is out of the question.

Domestic Amenities

Hot water is available shortly after 7 a.m. throughout the day, and each bungalow is fitted with a basin and running water. Facilities exist for washing, ironing and drying laundry, especially for mothers with young children. There are two bath-rooms where an instantaneous supply of boiling water and a scrubbing-brush or a cold shower-bath can be obtained.

Meals

Meals are served in a large dining-hall—accommodating over 200—at the usual meal times, and plenty of well-cooked food, admirably served, with alternatives for each course and a special menu for children, is always provided.

The bell is rung at the hours appointed for meals and after sufficient time has elapsed to allow everybody to take his or her seat, the following Grace is sung:

"Always eat when you are hungry;
Always drink when you are dry;
Always wash when you are dirty;
Don't stop breathing or you'll die."

Late comers are required to pay a penny into the charity box, the proceeds of which are divided between the B. & O. Fund and a local hospital.

Bathing

A "Big Splash" is organized daily at announced times (according to the tide) and the lifeguard patrols the beach for the next hour, although life-saving apparatus is always kept in the beach-hut and can be obtained and used immediately, if necessary. The bathers forgoth at the foot of the steps leading to the beach, and, joining hands, enter the water as a human chain. Surf riding is also a great feature.

Social Functions and Arrangements

On the Saturday evening the new campers are "initiated," because no one is allowed to use his everyday name. Everybody is given an apt nom-de-plume, by which he or she is known whilst remaining at the Centre. A few examples are: "Shorty," "Taffy," "Haggis," "Sandy," "Smiler," "Lino," "Father," "Obo," "Dusty," and "Curly."

The initiation ceremony, which provokes a great deal of merriment, is arranged by the old campers, who, by disguise and fancy dress, transform themselves to represent a suitable organization into which the newcomers are admitted. Examples of initiation ceremonies held are: "The Emperor of Abyssinia and his Warriors," "Will Hay and his School," "The Vicar and his Choir." The new campers are received in groups, named by the chairman or the audience, initiated, sworn-in, and admitted. The evening concludes with a social, Paul Jones, and progressive dances predominating.

On the Sunday, immediately after breakfast, the committee for the week is elected, consisting of six ladies and six gentlemen, and they are responsible for the organization of competitions and social functions.

The committee elect a chairman, who is usually received with musical honours when, after each meal, he announces items of interest, forthcoming social functions, competition details, etc. He acts as Master of Ceremonies each evening.

The committee also appoint a Lost Property Officer who displays any property found in the camp, and imposes a "forfeit" on the claimant, and a treasurer to control the finances, which are mainly derived from a table collection of 2s. 6d. per adult, competition entrance fees, etc.

A typical programme for a week includes:

Dances, Socials, Whist Drives, Games and Camp Fires on various evenings.

A concert arranged by the ladies; Fancy-dress Parades, Bathing Belles and Kiddies' Sandcastle Competitions.

A Mystery Motor Rally, a Scavenger Hunt, and a Treasure Hunt.

Sports, Comic Cricket and Football Matches, etc.

Concluding on the Friday, with the visit of a local celebrity to present prizes won during the week. In this connection the Centre has already been honoured by visits from the Lord and Lady of the Manor, the Mayor and Mayoress of Croyde and the Corporation, and the Arch-Druid of Baggy Point.

The knock-out competitions organized each week include:

Tennis (mixed doubles, partners selected by ballot).
Table Tennis (ladies, gents, and kiddies).
Putting (ladies, gents, and kiddies).
Bowls (ladies and gents).
Billiards.
Snooker.
Cork and Ball.
Snapshots (humorous, artistic, and camp life).

The Shop and Canteen

A shop is provided in the camp and all usual requisites can be obtained, and light refreshments, ices, etc., are sold at the canteen.

Baby Patrol

Arrangements are made for the camp to be patrolled at quarter-of-an-hour intervals to arrest any crying babies and to report to their parents immediately. It is, therefore, possible to participate in the social functions arranged in the evening, knowing that if baby cries it will soon be reported.

Rest-Room

A comfortably-furnished rest-room is provided in a quiet part of the grounds, where children are forbidden, and where older ones may seek rest.

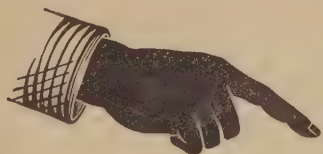
Tours

Devonshire is noted for its scenery, and no holiday would be complete without a tour to some neighbouring parts of the county. To the less-fortunate (without cars of their own) the coach tours, arranged by the management at reasonable cost to Lynton and Lynmouth, Doone Valley, Hunters' Inn, and Clovelly, will appeal, whilst those interested in Child Welfare work may inspect the works of Ambrosia, Ltd., at Lamford.

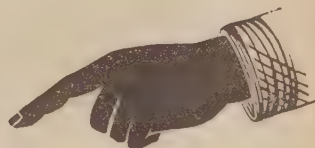
Games

The amenities of the Centre include a full-sized billiard-table, a regulation bowling-green, two hard tennis courts, and a putting-green.

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Continued from page xii

NURSING HOME

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MISCELLANEOUS

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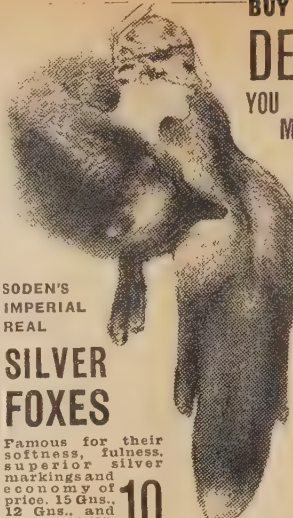
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The Relation of the Local Community to the Local Authority

Professor Ernest Barker's Lecture at the
Eastern District Week-End School

Professor Barker, Professor of Political Science, Cambridge, needs little introduction to students of political and social problems; his experience and wide knowledge have made him the recognised expert in the kind of social problem arising from the relationship between the community and the local authority, which is of interest to all local government officers.

In my mind there is the conception of two things, closely related and yet distinct—the community or society, pursuing what I would call its own spontaneous voluntary life; and the State, which to me is a legal body and a legal association, making and enforcing what I would call an automatism of rules.

Now there is a relation between the national community on the one hand and the national authority on the other; the two are in touch. There is on the one hand the opinion of the community playing and impinging on the Government. There is, on the other, the reaching out of a leading hand by the Government to the community. There is interplay between the two; a system of give and take.

What are the methods of the touch, the interplay, the give and take between the national community and the national authority? I group them under four headings beginning each with a "P."

P. 1—Press

The National Press ventilates the problems of both sides. The National Press, whatever its difficulties, which are often exaggerated, collects the feelings of the community, focuses them, and directs them on the Government.

The Operation of the Press.

We have an example in the "genesis" of the Reform Bill of 1832—in the part which "The Times," over one hundred years ago, played in the history of that Bill. Mr. Barnes, of Pembroke College, Cambridge, then the Editor of "The Times," collected, focused, and then directed the public mind, the mind of the community, upon the need for this Bill; and "The Times" thus played its part in the "pre-natal" development of the Reform Bill of 1832.

P. 2—Platform

The Members of the National Government can speak directly from the platform to their constituents—and in our times it can also speak by wireless, directly yet indirectly, unseen yet heard.

P. 3—Party

The party system makes party a "bridge of contact," a bridge that one end rests on the community and is in the nature of a voluntary club, and at the other end rests upon and is dovetailed into the Government and the leaders of the Opposition to the Government.

Party is an obvious means of keeping local constituencies and local opinion in contact with Westminster.

P. 4—Parliament

This is a midway house between the National Community and the National Government.

The members are in touch with the constituency—by personal visits to it and by correspondence with the electors in it—and they are also in touch with the Government by meeting it in the House.

Parliament is free to act in this capacity of the midway house. Members are not occupied in day to day administration. Their business is mainly to watch, to criticise and, as far as they can, to influence administration, but not to conduct it themselves.

I now turn to Local Government. Here there is the same need for "touch, interplay, give and take," but it is far more difficult to maintain it. In Local Government the methods of connection do not operate in the same way; in some cases do not operate at all.

P. 1.—In the first place, the Press is not effective in maintaining "touch" between the Local Authority and the Local Community. Our main newspapers are not so much local as national, and the local newspapers are chiefly occupied with police reports, social happenings, etc.

P. 2. The same may be said of the Platform. Local members (Councillors) do not appear on the platform.

P. 3.—Party raises difficulties in local affairs. Are there parties, or should there be parties, in the sphere of Local Government? There are two possibilities. The first is that the National party system should be applied to local administration; but this is a questionable policy. The other is that there should be separate Local parties for the conduct of local government. This is attempted in London, but even in London it is difficult to separate "Local" parties from National parties.

Yet it remains a possibility that by some sort of Local party system the Local Community could be kept in living touch with the Local Authority.

P. 4.—The "Local," elected body is very different from the National Elected Parliament. The Local Council is not free, as Parliament is free, to act as the link between the Local Authority and the Local Community. It is itself the Local Authority. It is, in its nature, a local government rather than a parliament. The L.C.C., for example, is largely an administrative body. All local elected bodies administer, in a sort of uncertain and uneasy conjunction with their administrative officers.

General Conclusion

There is a cleavage between the Local Community on the one side, and on the other the Local Government, with its somewhat uneasy hierarchy of elected councillors and their permanent officers.

How to Close the Gap

I do not propose to answer this question fundamentally. In a fundamental reply, some fundamental questions would need answers, and especially the following two:

(a) Is the Local Community on the right lines?

Have we the right boundaries which correspond to real local communities, real units of local life and feeling, or have we wrong boundaries which falsify the real units?

Do we need a new planning of England as France in 1789 re-planned herself in new "departments"? Do we need some re-planning which would on the one hand aggregate counties in larger "regional" bodies for certain purposes, and which would, on the other hand, divide counties on some system of decentralisation for other purposes, and would give more effective power to District Committees in the management of their districts? It is just possible that the want of contact

between Local Community and the Local Authority, so far as it exists, is partly due to the fact that the present boundaries are wrong.

(b) Is the Local Authority on the right lines?

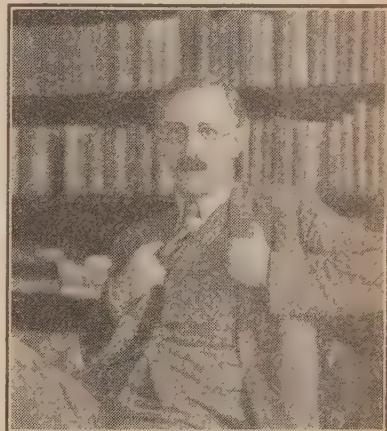
Might we do better if, on French or German lines, we had the equivalent of the French Prefect of Department or the German professional administrator—the permanent responsible administrator, acting with an advisory council or councils large enough to bring the feeling of the Community to his attention?

Is it possible to close up the gap without altering the present boundaries of the Local Community or the present system of the Local Authority?

Is it possible that party can so develop in Local Government as to discharge the great function of the bridge which it does discharge in National affairs?

I confess that I have no great hope of such a development of party as to make it a better means of contact between the Local Community and the Local Authority.

But there might be developed non-party bodies representing the Local Community and making representations to the Local Authority, who could close the gap—bodies such as the present Ratepayers' Associations or Women Citizen's Associations. Similarly the local Press might be educated into becoming a



Professor Ernest Barker

better liaison officer between the local community and the Local Authority; and more use might conceivably be made of the platform. But I do not attach very great weight to these possibilities.

There are three main other points which I wish to elaborate.

I. Is it possible for the Community as a whole to get into direct contact with the Authority?

In February, 1920, I was living in a little New England town in Massachusetts. There, the general body of the townspeople gather together once a year and have a great confabulation about local affairs, hearing reports, pressing for redress of grievances, dealing with everything.

This is not a bad thing. But the town meeting once a year would seem to be a system which is only possible in a small community. And yet even here in Cambridge, a borough of over 60,000 inhabitants, we can occasionally have a town meeting of the general local community.

I was once present as a member of the community of Cambridge when a public meeting was held in the borough because the Local Authority was proposing to take over the water supply from the local waterworks company:

A legal provision made the meeting possible. Under the Borough Funds Act of 1903 the expense of promoting a Private Bill in Parliament may be paid out of the Municipal Treasury with permission from the Minister of Health and the approval of the local community.

This is the only provision which makes it possible to get together with the mass of the people for the purpose of expressing their opinion directly on local affairs.

Technically, the only question the meeting answers is, "Shall we pay the legal expenses?" But in practice it also decides whether the proposed scheme shall be adopted.

At that meeting there was "contact." I, for once, was an active member of the community. The community was in touch with the local administrators (in the person of the presiding Mayor), and even I, normally a cool sort of person, became agitated and excited by the proceedings. I felt that the meeting acted sensibly, and I was led to reflect that the community as a whole, meeting and expressing its opinion, can show wisdom.

Athens, 431 B.C.

One of the most beautiful buildings which I know, and which I visited on a cruise of two years ago, was built in Athens after a similar procedure about the year 431 B.C. The architects produced their plans, which were set up in a public place. The people of Athens generally were asked to vote for the plan which they wished to be adopted. The proof of their good choice lies in the fact that the building still stands, a monument to their greatness.

Public taste can be a sensible thing if it can be allowed to speak. Public opinion can be a good thing if it can get together to express itself.

II.—Can we get the community to get into some contact with the Local Authority by means of some representative body which is yet something distinct from the elected administrating authority?

Are representative bodies possible, in local affairs, which would discharge a function something like that which Parliament discharges in the administration of national affairs—the function of the midway house?

The elected administrative body might not like such a system, but still it is a thing to be investigated.

There are two possible ways of getting a representative element drawn from the community into contact with the elected administrating authority and its officials.

1. The co-optation of members drawn from the general community by the committees of the local administrating authority. This has been attempted—e.g., on education committees but it is not of any great value in connecting the local community and the local authority.

The co-opted member does not represent the community: he only represents some sort of special knowledge, in short, himself. The co-opted members must play second fiddle because they have not behind them a community which they represent as the elected member of the local authority can claim that he represents his ward. The final decision in all matters is made by the council over and above these committees, and the co-opted members have no place in the council. For all these reasons the system of co-optation fails to achieve any great result in bridging the gap between the local community and the local authority which administers its life.

2. The formation of representative bodies which could report the feelings and the grievances of the community to the elected administrating body.

Here I shall confine myself to the county; the municipality comes under my next and last head.

In the county there is a possibility of using representative bodies, distinct from the local authority, standing beside it, and keeping it in touch with the local community's feelings.

Parish councils, for example, may well serve as very useful bodies, putting forward their

view in a representative capacity to the authorities above them. Parish councils, whose existence as administrative authorities under the present system is foredoomed, might continue to exist as representative bodies long after they have ceased to exist as administrative bodies.

As an administrative unit the parish council can hardly hope for immortality, as somebody has said; but it may prove to be immortal in a representative capacity.

III.—Community Associations

These associations exist and act in the area of the great municipality and in that area only—they do not belong to the area of the county.

In the United States of America the city community has divided itself into so many communities on the basis of the "Ward" system; each Ward has formed a "Ward Community," a voluntary organization. This has attempted to organize a general social life on the basis of the "Ward"—a Ward community centre, a Ward church, a Ward theatre, etc. In a city where that development is carried through every Ward becomes a Ward community, and as a community carries on a multitude of general social activities.

(The Ward church is the most dubious of these activities, abandoning the denominational church for a sort of omnibus Ward church, supposed to embrace all denominations.)

Here in England a voluntary life has sprung up, not in all Wards or all parts of our cities, but in those parts of the city that have been newly developed: the new housing estates.

This has happened in many cities: Birmingham, Manchester and, of course, London.

The new estate is a new settlement of people, newly brought together, with no ties one with another; a bleak life at first for its members, a solitary life, without the intimacy of the slum life from which they have been taken.

Then are born the Garden Guild, the Musical Guild, the Drama Guild, and other associations. There comes a time when these associations federate and constitute a Community Association, not necessarily embracing all the 10,000 or so people on the estate, far from it. The total number of individuals involved in the community groups may at first be only a fraction of the whole body of people resident in the estate.

When the Community Association is formed it finds it wants two things. In the first place, a guide, a leader.

A Secretary to the Community Association may be found for this purpose, financed by some voluntary body from charitable funds which it devotes to aiding this new experiment in social life.

In the second place, a Community Centre. A charitable body may give a grant to the Community Association, which has already raised a little money of itself. Then the association manages to build its own community centre.

Gradually this original method is altering owing to the assumption of responsibility by the local authority.

The local authority begins to reflect and finds that it too has powers to provide a community centre. Sometimes it does so. Then the local authority has erected the community centre either from the rates alone or from the rates with the aid of grants from charitable funds.

The development thus begun may go farther still.

So far as we have gone, the little groups or "Guilds" on a particular housing estate have united themselves into a Community Association, which has got a secretary, or a community centre, or both.

The next step is that the different community associations on different estates in the same city should federate with one another, making a federation of community associations, the federation covering all the estates in the municipality. The federation may be either simple or complex. A simple federation is

simply a union made up of so many different community associations. A complex federation adds two other factors, viz., representatives of some voluntary charitable body in the old city (e.g., the Common Good Trust in Birmingham) and representatives drawn from the statutory authority or its committees.

When a federation of community associations (simple or complex) has been formed, the local authority is now face to face with something very interesting—the problem of the relation of the local authority to these local community associations and these federations of local community associations. Here is a new way in which the gap between the local community and the local authority can be closed and a new experiment in democracy be made.

The local authority can help and be helped by the local community.

The local community can help with direct constructive suggestions and criticisms offered to the local authority.

The local community can be helped by the local authority with grants made and centres given; and it deserves the help.

I suggest to you that these community associations do afford a new hope.

Here is a new form of democracy—a voluntarily formed association, not created by the State (on the contrary, it has created itself), but ready to help, and needing to be helped by, the State, or at any rate that part or form of the State which we call the local authority. In the give and take between the community association (and the federation of community associations) on the one side, and the local authority on the other, there is a new prospect before the development of our English local life.

NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY FREE ADVERTISING SERVICE.

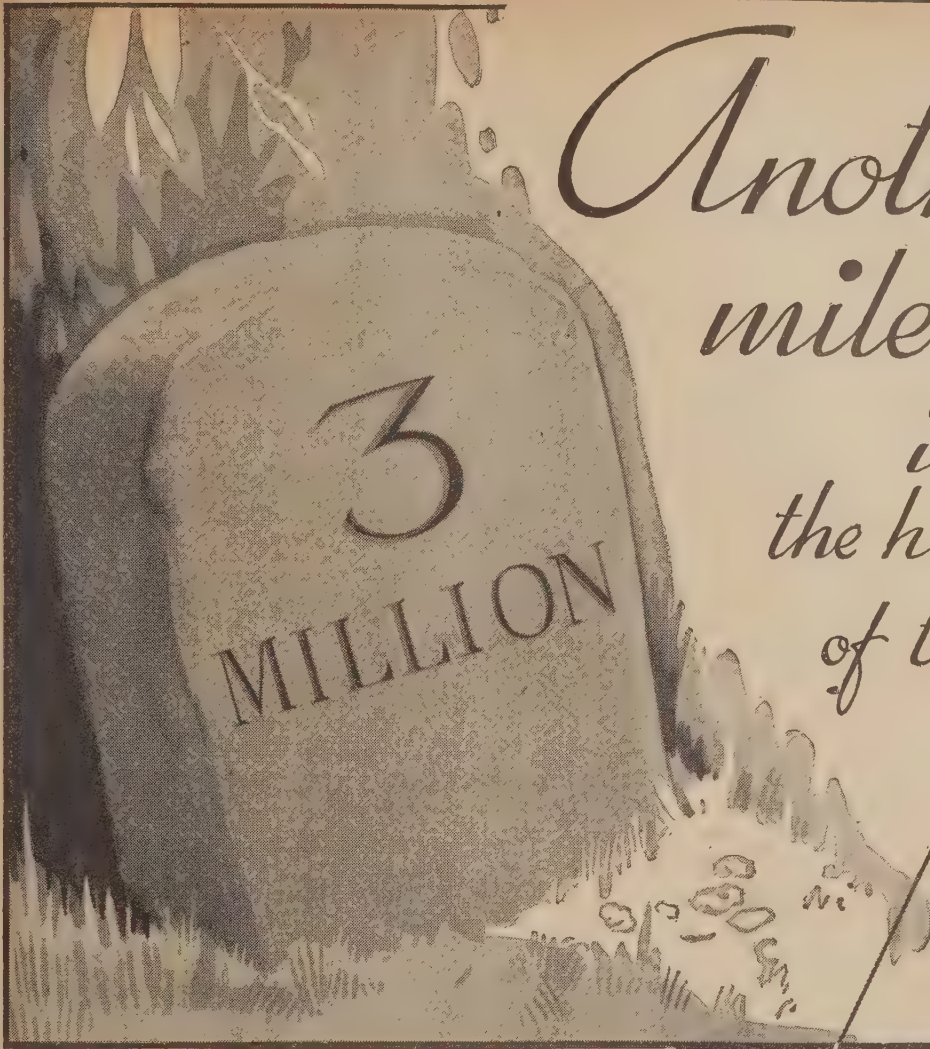
Below are given details of properties for sale under the Society's free Advertising Scheme. This scheme is but a further example of the numerous advantages extended to members of N.A.L.G.O. who obtain mortgages from the Nalگو Building Society. Full particulars of the terms offered to members to enable them to purchase houses can be obtained from local branch officers, or direct from the Secretary, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

See full-page advertisement on another page in this Journal.

BARNEHURST (Kent).—Semi-detached freehold property, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bath, separate w.c. Plot 22 ft. by 106 ft. No road charges. Brick garage. Quiet situation. Price £650.—Apply 12, Lydhurst Close, Barnehurst, Kent.

HERTFORD NORTH.—2 mins. station (L.N.E.R.) and buses. Freehold, well-appointed house, detached, 3 double bedrooms, tiled hall, 2 reception rooms, bath, kitchenette, 2 w.c.'s, all services. High position, town planned residential area, large fenced garden 150 ft. by 250 ft., well stocked shrubs and fruit trees. Private drive. Price £885 or offer quick sale.—Apply Mecena, Welwyn Road, Hertford.

ASHTON-ON-MERSEY, Manchester.—Semi-detached (4 years old) property. 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, bathroom, kitchenette, separate w.c., etc. Space for garage. Good garden. Near to station and main road for shops and buses. Nice rural situation. Price £500. Chief Rent £5.—Apply Box HPB. No. 19, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.



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N.A.L.G.O. is proud of this new achievement—£3,000,000 has been advanced to members for the purchase of property since the inception of the NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY in 1932. This remarkable progress is indicative both of the valuable nature of the facilities for house-purchase offered by the Society and of the high standard of confidence placed in it by members. A space is provided at the foot of this announcement for the use of members who would like further particulars of the scheme:—

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Telephone: WHItchall 9351 (6 lines).

Telegrams: Natassoc Parl. London.

MARGATE CONFERENCE

Dates to Remember:

MAY 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.

MAY 15.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference proceedings.

MAY 17.—Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference proceedings.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: November, 51; December, 51; January, 51; February, 51; March, 51; April, 51. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Food	35	35	35
Rent	59	59	59
Clothing ..	95	95	100
Fuel and Light ..	80	80	80
Other items ..	75	75	75

IMPORTANT DATES

May 27, 28, 29.—N.A.L.G.O. examinations.

May 31.—Branches to remit all moneys due to the Association to headquarters.

SAVE YOUR COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

An abridged copy of the annual report will be circulated to the members after the Conference. Copies of the full report have been sent to representatives appointed to attend Conference, and to each branch secretary a number corresponding to the number of representatives on the branch executive committee. Only 13,000 copies of the full report have been printed, and these should be carefully preserved for reference.

IMPORTANT

Representatives are particularly requested to assist the Local Conference Council to complete its arrangements by filling in and returning the requisition form for tickets for the various events with the least possible delay.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

MARCH 23

23/SA/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Stating that a specimen copy of the Association's Holiday Guide has been forwarded to each branch and enclosing a form for requisitioning further copies.

24/SA/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing copies of the Swiss Holiday folder and combined General Information and Application Forms.

25/SA/37

(To each branch secretary.)

(a) Enclosing a list showing Cargo Boat Holidays which can be arranged and giving information about the holidays.

(b) Enclosing a small supply of the new illustrated N.A.L.G.O. Colours price list.

28/SA/37

(To each branch secretary and Building Society local correspondent.)

(a) Regarding the acceptance by the Building Society of deposits from non-members.

(b) Regarding loans on mortgage.

29/ORG/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Requesting information from branches as to what the various local authorities have done with regard to Air-Raid precautions.

30/GEN/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Regarding N.A.L.G.O. and the Trades Union Congress.

31/ED/37

(To each branch secretary and Area Education Committee secretary and to each education correspondent.)

Stating that a meeting of education correspondents who will be present at the Annual Conference at Margate, will be on May 18, and requesting a note of any items which it is desired should be included in the agenda.

Stating also that if the education correspondent of the branch is not attending the Conference any other representative will be welcome.

32/ED/37

(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)

Requesting information as to the grants or increments awarded by local authorities to officers who pass examinations after entry into the service.

33/ED/37

(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)

(a) Giving information concerning the Correspondence Institute's course for the examinations of the Poor Law Examinations Board.

(b) Stating that a new course has been prepared for the revised syllabus of the Institution Officers' examination.

MARCH 31

26/CONF/37

(To each branch secretary.)

(a) Enclosing Conference Agendas and Annual Reports for the use of the branch executive committees.

(b) Containing instructions regarding the voting papers for the election of the National Executive Council.

27/CONF/37

(To the members of the National Executive Council, the Honorary Officers of the Association, and to representatives of district committees, branches and sectional and professional societies who have been appointed to attend the Annual Conference.)

(a) Enclosing various forms, etc., to be used in connection with the Annual Conference.

(b) Stating that tickets of admission to the public session of the Conference may be obtained on application to headquarters.

(c) Regarding the appointment of substitute delegates to the Conference.

(d) Concerning amendments to motions in the agenda of the Conference.

(e) Stating that a copy of the minutes of proceedings of the Annual Conference, 1936, has been sent to each branch secretary.

APRIL 5

35/LOG/37

(To the secretary of each branch where no Logomia local correspondent has been appointed.)

(a) Enclosing a copy of a Life Assurance circular available for distribution among members and setting out a form for requisitioning further copies.

(b) Regarding the possibility of the branch executive committee appointing a local correspondent for Logomia.

APRIL 8

34/NPS/37

(To each local correspondent of the Provident Society.)

(a) Enclosing copies of the agenda for the annual general meeting of the Provident Society for distribution among the members of the Society, and stating that further copies may be obtained if required.

(b) Enclosing a copy of the minutes of proceedings of the annual general meeting, 1936, for the use of the branch representative who will be attending this year's meeting.

APRIL 14

36/GEN/37

(To each district committee secretary.)

Concerning the counting of voting papers in the election of the National Executive Council for the year 1937-38, and enclosing forms for notifying headquarters of the result of the count.

(Continued on page 131)

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1931—1941

THE average increase in wholesale prices as recorded in the "Board of Trade Journal" for March was 3.3 per cent, and that was the largest accorded increase since the upward movements began in June, 1936. Since that month the index numbers for all articles and for industrial materials and manufactures have risen continuously, the aggregate increases in the period being about 17 and 18 per cent respectively.

Food prices have also risen in eight of the past ten months, and in March the usual seasonal decline from the February level was displaced by an advance of 2.1 per cent. The index number for all articles in March (107.3) is only exceeded by that for January, 1930, when the present series of calculations was instituted.

The March index figure shows that the cost of living is 51 per cent above the pre-war level, compared with 46 per cent a year ago, and 39 per cent two years ago.

The gradually rising cost of living coincides with an increasing national expenditure on war material. This is not a new economic phenomenon. It is a simple repetition of what has happened before many times in varying degrees of intensity, and reaching a record during the last great war. To borrow a war-time official phrase, the campaign is going according to plan. We are spending huge sums on armaments; we are being told by responsible ministers that such small sums as £400,000,000 as an instalment for armament can be taken by the country "in its stride."

Trade is ascending towards the crest of a boom, profits are being made easily, office boys in the City are speculating, fortunes are being made by men who unexpectedly find themselves on the course of the trade winds. Another responsible Minister tells us that a committee of Ministers has been sitting to consider finding places in the Civil Service for ex-Service men, and that it had found ways of considerably extending the number of men who could be taken in from year to year. They would be able to place as many as 10,000 in the next ten years. He also expressed the hope that *Municipal Authorities would follow the example of the Government.*

Another Minister, referring to the rise in price of copper, said "the fact is there is a world shortage, and the good old law—if it was a good old law—of supply and demand was being worked out once more before our eyes." Others, not ministers, drawn by the warmth of the trade winds and a rising sun, have already crept out of the woodwork and have written their usual letters to the Press urging a curtailment in local government expenditure in the interests "of the nation." All the old and threadbare orthodox arguments are being used in defence of this orgy, and it would be very interesting to the public servant who, after all, is a spectator seeing most of the game, if he were not conscious of the fact that it is not possible for only *part of history* to repeat itself.

The last whoopee of this kind left a bad headache, ruffled tempers, and such a sickening feeling of remorse that it could only be appeased by imitating the pagan practice of a sacrificial feast. The same Minister spoke, the City ghouls probing amongst the debris, the letter-writers were leaving a sticky trail as they returned to their crevices, and we got the Geddes Axe, the May Report, the Ray Report, and finally a *reduction of the salaries of all public officers*. What happened in 1931 can happen again in 1941, but in 1931 we said "never again." What is N.A.L.G.O. going to say at Margate?

The National Executive Council has

done all that it can on the question of the cost of living. It has given evidence before the Cost-of-living Index Advisory Committee and urged that the present method of compiling the index should be varied in such a way as to give adequate compensation to those public officers whose range of remuneration is governed by the index. It urged the adoption of a series of indices if the weighing of the present index could not be done with adequate relief to local government officers and other salaried classes.

The deputation was congratulated upon the case which it had presented, and assured that all the points put forward would have careful consideration. Mr. E. C. Ramsbottom, the Ministry of Labour's Director of Statistics, conceded the defects of the present index and said that it was never intended that the present index should apply to others than the working classes. It was obvious then that the association should emphasize the justice of establishing an index that would apply to local government officers and similar classes of workers. Everything that can be done up to this stage has been done to protect our members' interests, but there is some heavy weather in front of us. The Margate Conference must trust the N.E.C., but it can give enormous encouragement by expressing its determination to back its Executive.

THEIR MAJESTIES' CORONATION

This month the Coronation of their Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth will take place. Long before accession to the Throne His Majesty has evinced a keen interest in the welfare of the community. His industrial tour, his personal interest in the Playing Fields Movement and in Boys' Clubs have shown his desire to serve the community and have endeared him to his people. The constitutional machinery of government, of which the monarchy is a part, embraces the whole of the Local Government Service, and every Local Government Officer will appreciate the honour of forming part of that constitution which is the admiration of the world, and will show loyalty and allegiance to their Majesties.

Long may they reign.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Statement of Amendments to Motions and Annual Report

AGENDA ITEM No. 13

Salaries and Service Conditions.

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That the words "at a reasonable marrying age" be deleted from paragraph (c).

Amendment submitted by the Scottish District Committee.

- (a) That the word "recognises" in the fourth line of (a) be deleted and the words "whilst recognising" be substituted therefor.
- (b) Also that the words "in the future" be inserted after the word "will" in the said fourth line.

- (c) That the words "instructs the National Executive Council to have regard to the present indications of rapidly ascending price level which, in the case of those with fixed incomes, may quickly become a virtual and serious reduction of purchasing power" be inserted after the last word of paragraph (a) of notice of motion submitted by the Yorkshire District Committee.

Amendment submitted by the West Riding County Officers' Association.

That Section (c) be amended to read as follows: This Conference affirms that a national effort by the National Executive Council be made to ensure that every local government officer shall have satisfactory service conditions, along with an adequate salary as laid down in the national scale of salaries being prepared by the National Executive Council for submission to the 1938 Annual Conference.

AGENDA ITEM No. 14

National Whitley Council.

Amendment submitted by the Edinburgh Branch.

That the following words be added to section (b) of notice of motion submitted by the National Executive Council: "And that representations be made to these bodies urging the immediate functioning of such Councils in the areas where they are not at present in operation."

AGENDA ITEM No. 15

Post-Entry Training.

Amendment submitted by the Manchester Branch.

That this Conference urges the National Executive Council to take steps to influence local authorities to establish schemes for the post-entry training of local government officers on the lines recommended in the Hadow Report (1934).

Amendment submitted by the Stockport Branch.

That, in addition to the urge to local authorities to take a greater interest in the post-entry training of local government officers this Conference being of opinion that the passing of a professional or academic examination by officers in the municipal service is of great value to their employing authorities, requests the National Executive Council to approach the respective organisations of local authorities with a view to financial recognition of such examination successes being given.

AGENDA ITEM No. 17

Benevolent and Orphan Fund Rules.

Rule 2.—Definitions.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the definition "Honorary Member" be deleted.

Rule 3.—Objects.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the words "and shall not be bound to assign any reason for so doing" be deleted and the words "and shall assign a reason for so doing" be inserted in their place.

Amendment submitted by the Manchester Branch.

That the last sentence be amended to read as follows: The Council may, at their discretion, refuse to grant assistance in any case and shall assign the reason for so doing, if requested by the Branch concerned.

Rule 4.—Objects.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the word "or" from the end of line (i) (b) be deleted.

Rule 5 (a) (ii).—Membership and Contributions.

Amendment submitted by the Leeds Branch.

That the rule be amended to read as follows: An annual subscription of 2s. 6d. payable at the rate of not less than 3d. per month.

Amendment submitted by the Salford Branch.

That rule 5 (a) (ii) be deleted and the following substituted therefor: "not less than 2s. 6d. per annum shall be a 'contributing member.'"

Rule No. 6.—Administration of the Fund.

Amendment submitted by the Hants C. C. Branch.

That the following words be added: "and the expenses of administration shall be a charge on the General Fund of the Association."

Amendment submitted by the Salford Branch.

That the following words be added at the end of Rule 6: "The Council may appoint a committee, which, if appointed, shall consist of members of the Council who are members of the Fund, and shall be known as the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee of the Council. The Council may delegate to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee of the Council the whole or any part of the Council's functions under these Rules, subject to the proceedings of such Committee being submitted to the Council from time to time for approval."

Rule 7.—Directions by Council.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That paragraph 7 be deleted and the following substituted therefor: The District Committee shall have due regard to any directions which may be given from time to time by the Council with the object of ensuring co-ordination in dealing with applications for assistance.

Rule 8.—Regulations.

Amendment submitted by the Surrey County Officers' Association.

That the following paragraph be added: Any regulations made under this Rule shall be subject to confirmation by the next Annual Conference, without prejudice to the validity of any action taken thereunder before they are submitted to such Conference.

Benevolent and Orphan Fund Rules and Annual Report. Pages 16 to 19. Paragraph 13.

Amendment submitted by the Northwich and District Branch.

That paragraph 13 be referred back to the National Executive Council with instructions: (i) To request each District Committee to appoint a sub-committee consisting of equal representation from members of the District Committee and the existing Benevolent and Orphan Fund Regional Committee to examine the National Executive Council's proposals and submit to the National Executive Council arguments pro and con the proposals.

(ii) After consideration of the representations referred to under (i) above, to frame proposals which shall be submitted to each District Committee for agreement not later than the 1st December, 1937, and to, if substantial agreement is reached submit the Rules for approval of the 1938 Conference of the Association.

Amendments to paragraph of the Annual Report relating to the B. & O. Fund.

Page 17. Paragraph 1.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the word "five" be deleted and the word "two" substituted therefor, and that the words "with an additional member for each unit of 3,000 of the District Committee membership" be added after the word "Committee."

Amendment submitted by the Manchester Branch.

That the words "and five members of the District Committee (at least one of whom must be a member of the Council)" be deleted and the words "and five or more members of the District Committee (at least one of whom must be a member of the Council), according to the membership and needs of the District Committee area" be substituted therefor.

Page 17. Paragraph 4.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the words "who shall not be a paid officer of the Association" be inserted on the 4th line after the word "Secretary."

Amendments submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

Page 17—Draft Regulations 1 (a).

That the words "or otherwise" be inserted after the word "supports."

Page 17—Draft Regulation 2.

That the words "with such information as he may deem useful" be deleted and the words "with all relevant information" be inserted therefor.

Page 17—Draft Regulation 4.

That the word "District" be inserted on line 1 before the words "B. & O. Committee."

Page 18—Draft Regulation 5.

That the words "Grants made in accordance with Nos. 6 and 7 of these Regulations shall be reported to the Council" be added at the end of the regulation.

Page 18—Draft Regulation 5.

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That the words "to the District Committee for approval, and decisions on the cases must be submitted by the District Committee" be deleted.

Page 18—Draft Regulation 6.

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That "£75" be substituted for "£30" and that the words "the Chairman of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee of the Council, on receipt of the recommendations of" be deleted.

Page 18—Draft Regulation 6.

Amendment submitted by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

That the word "£30" in line 2 of the paragraph be deleted and the word "£50" substituted therefor.

Page 18—Draft Regulation 7.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the words "and Chairman of the District Committee" be added after the word "District" on the last line.

Page 18—Draft Regulation 7.

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That "£75" be substituted for "£30."

Page 18—Draft Regulation 7.

Amendment submitted by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

That the word "£30" in line 2 of the paragraph be deleted and the word "£50" substituted therefor.

Page 18.

Amendment submitted by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

That the following new rule be inserted after paragraph 7:

"All grants shall be made by the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Committee, on a report of the Branch, but a branch in urgent cases coming within its province, may, in any one year, make grants which in total do not exceed an amount equal to one-third of the total contributions of such branch for the previous year, provided that in any one case the grant voted shall not exceed £30 after taking into account any previous grant made in such case."

Page 18. Draft Regulation 10

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That the whole regulation be deleted.

Page 19.—Paragraph 1.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That the words "and any other expenses incurred in attaining the objects of the Fund" be added after the word "Committees."

AGENDA ITEM No. 19

Rule 4.—Definitions.

Amendment submitted by the Manchester Branch.

That the words "for a period of two years" be deleted and the words "for a period of five possible years" be substituted therefor in line 4 of the last paragraph.

AGENDA ITEM No. 21

Rule 48.—Casual Vacancies.

Amendment submitted by the Leicester Branch.

That the word "fourteen" in line 6 of Rule 48 be deleted and the words "twenty-eight" be substituted therefor.

AGENDA ITEM No. 24

Code of Professional Conduct.

Amendment submitted by the Glasgow Branch.

That this Conference is of opinion that a code of professional conduct for all members of the local government service is in principle desirable, and instructs the National Executive Council to consider the practicability of framing such a code and to report thereon to the Annual Conference, 1938.

AGENDA ITEM No. 27

Rule 9.—Subscriptions.

Amendment submitted by the National Executive Council.

That this Conference be asked to refer this question to the National Executive Council for consideration and report to the Annual Conference, 1938.

Amendment submitted by the Eastern District Committee.

That Rule 9 (d) be amended as follows: That the words "Branches with a membership of one thousand or more, when recommended by the District Committee of their area, 40 per cent" be inserted after the words "40 per cent" in line 4.

Amendment submitted by the South Eastern District Committee.

That the words "thousand or more" be deleted and the words "hundred or less" be substituted therefor.

Amendment submitted by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

That the words "of one thousand or more" be deleted and the words "not exceeding two hundred" be substituted therefor.

Amendment submitted by the Scottish District Committee.

That Rule 9 (d) be amended to read as follows: "(d) 40 per cent of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year shall be retained by Branches."

Amendment submitted by the Gateshead Branch.

That Rule 9 (d) be amended to read as follows: The percentage of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year to be retained by all Branches shall be 40 per cent.

Amendment submitted by the Hants C. C. Branch.

That the rule be amended to read as follows: The percentage of the total amount collected in subscriptions during each year to be retained by Branches shall be 40 per cent.

AGENDA ITEM No. 28

Evidence of Passing of Resolution.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That this Conference instructs the National Executive Council to consider and report as to whether any specific majority should be imposed in voting upon any question before Conference.

AGENDA ITEM No. 29

Rule 47.—Counting of Votes.

Amendment submitted by the West Hartlepool Branch.

That the words "not being candidates for election" be inserted after the words "member of Branches in its District" and the rule then read as follows:

"The District Committee for each electoral area shall make arrangements for counting the votes in connection with the election of ordinary members of the Council for its own area, together with the votes of members in it area for the women's direct representatives. For this purpose the District Committee shall appoint a Presiding Officer and Scrutineers from members of Branches in its District not being candidates for election. The results shall be communicated to the candidates in attendance at the count immediately after the votes are counted, and shall be notified to the General Secretary forthwith. The results shall be declared at the Annual Conference, as provided in Rules 28 and 51."

Compulsory Superannuation Bill.

Paragraph 14 (2) page 20 of the Annual Report.

Amendment submitted by the Buckinghamshire County Branch.

That, as in the opinion of this Conference Branches should have a further opportunity of considering the question of Pensions for Widows and Orphans of Officers who die in active service, Paragraph 14 (2) of the Annual Report be referred back; that the National Executive Council be instructed to circulate to Branches a proposal on the lines of the Birmingham Staff Widows and Orphans Scheme and that Branches be given a period of at least three months in which to submit their observations.

General Legal Questions.

Paragraph 61, page 54 of the Annual Report.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That in view of the omission in the Annual Report of any steps taken to safeguard the rights of officers who contract a disease during the course of their employment which renders them incapable of following such employment, the National Executive Council be instructed to enquire and report on the desirability of safeguarding the rights of officers who contract industrial, infectious, etc. diseases during the course of their employment.

"Hadow" Committee.

Paragraph 93, pages 71-77 of the Annual Report.

Amendment submitted by the North Western and North Wales District Committee.

That paragraph 1 at the top of page 77 of the Report be disapproved and that the following words be added after the 4th paragraph on page 77:

That the National Executive Council be instructed to endeavour to secure that the functions of the proposed Central Advisory Committee shall be performed by the National Joint Council of Officers and the Provincial Whitley Councils.

Holiday Centres.

Paragraph 102, page 80 of the Annual Report.

Amendment submitted by the Bethnal Green Branch.

That this Conference is of opinion that there should be a licensed bar in each of the Association's Holiday Camps, and it directs the National Executive Council to arrange accordingly.

HEALTH CONGRESS

The preliminary programme of the Health Congress, which is to be held at Birmingham from July 12 to 17 by the Royal Sanitary Institute, has recently been issued.

A comprehensive list of subjects will be discussed at the Congress.

The Earl of Dudley is the President of the Congress, and he will deliver an Inaugural Address. The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, will also address a general session of the Congress.

Nearly 800 official delegates have already been appointed by Government departments, foreign and Dominion governments and municipalities, local authorities and learned societies, etc., in Great Britain. It is expected that there will be over 1,600 present.

A Health Exhibition is being arranged in the Bingley Hall. The exhibits will include food, sanitary appliances, and various appliances illustrating municipal activities and hygiene in the home.

TRADE UNIONISM IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Lecture by J. W. Bowen, Esq., J.P., to the Institute of Public Administration.

THE question of Trade Unionism in the Civil Service formed the subject of a lecture given by Mr. J. W. Bowen, J.P., before the Institute of Public Administration on March 18, 1937, at Montagu House, Whitehall, Sir Horace Wilson, G.C.M.G. (Chairman of National Council for Administration of Legal Departments of the Civil Service), was in the chair.

In opening his address Mr. Bowen said that whilst to-day Civil Servants might appreciate the value of combination there were many who were disinclined to adopt methods—which might have to be employed in other walks of life—in order to deal with conditions, the unsettled and hazardous nature of which finds no counterpart in the administrative work of the Civil Service.

Experience had, however, brought the Civil Servants to realise that those placed in authority over them employ, in the main, the same economic arguments as those of employers in other industries.

Of the Civil Service Organisations themselves there were scores who fought shy of the title "Union" or "Trade Union," thinking that it was desirable that they should remain organised on a grade or class basis. He thought that these organisations had still to learn the lesson that their existence as such perpetuated two conditions damaging to their own progress, first the weakness of their isolation, and second jealousy between grades.

The organisation of the Civil Service Organisations, he went on to say, compared very favourably with most industries. In round numbers there were about 450,000 Civil Servants including the Industrial Staffs. Excluding 85,000 Industrial Staff, employed outside the Post Office and catered for by other Trade Unions, this left about 365,000 men, women and juveniles, of whom more than 295,000 were in recognised Associations.

The vastly improved status of the Civil Service Unions as compared with the position 50 or 25 years ago, can be gathered from the wide range of subjects discussed on the Whitley Councils.

Mr. Bowen then went on to give a brief history of the development of the Associations from before the War, up to the present day.

Continuing his lecture, Mr. Bowen said that although progress had been made, Civil Servants were still severely handicapped by the restrictions imposed upon them in regard to political matters and affiliation of their Unions to other bodies. He referred to Clause 5 of the Trades Disputes Act, 1927, and thought that Civil Servants should continue to aim at its repeal so that the individual Civil Servant could be allowed to act openly and healthily like other citizens.

With the growing strength of the Unions and the operation of Whitleyism, access to the Heads of Departments had been facilitated, in his opinion, most commendably. The Civil Service Unions of to-day might be large enough to operate without Whitley Councils, but he thought that they had additional opportunity and strength by the Whitley System.

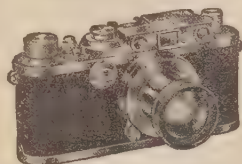
Mr. Bowen went on to detail the activities of the Civil Service Trade Unions in other spheres, and pointed out that Trade Unionism had thus become an instrument of considerable value to its members.

The development had, however, not been entirely one-sided, the "Official Side" had also become equipped materially, and in skill of personnel to contend with the Unions, and this he thought had secured from the "Official Side" a much fuller examination of questions.

In conclusion he would say that whilst no official movement could be made without taking them into account, the Unions would be mindful of the responsibility of retaining the popularity of their members as public servants.

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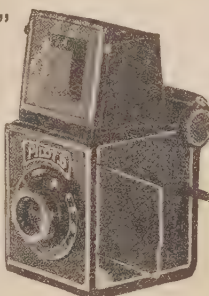
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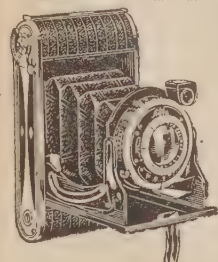
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Candidates wishing to present themselves must make application before the 15th May, 1937. Full particulars and forms may be obtained from the Registered Office.

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ESSAY COMPETITIONS

SIR ARTHUR ROBINSON PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., formerly Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, now Chairman of the Supply Board, has intimated his desire to continue his association with the Summer Schools, and has offered prizes of the value of five guineas to be competed for in an essay competition. The competition is open to members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales, and will be divided into two classes:

Class I. For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more; value of prize three guineas.

Class II. For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum; value of prize two guineas.

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are the same for both classes, viz:

1. Set out your views as to the most probable lines of the future development of local government in this country in regard to (i) areas of local government; (ii) division of powers between the various types of local authority and between local authorities as a whole and the State.

2. Set out your views on the published "Report on Result of investigation under Section 110 of the Local Government Act 1929 (England and Wales)"—its advantages and its defects and possible amendments to it—the standpoint adopted to be the public interest and not the interest of the local treasury.

Rules of the Competition

1. The competition is open to all members of N.A.L.G.O. in England and Wales.
2. The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten, or printed.
3. No stipulation is made as to length.
4. The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.
5. Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 7, 1937.
6. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom de plume, and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, position, and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom de plume and class, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.
7. The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 17, 1937.

THE J. E. HIGHTON PRIZE

The late Mr. J. E. Highton, C.B., B.L., formerly Permanent Under Secretary of State for Scotland, very kindly instituted an Essay Competition in connection with the School. This competition is open to Scottish Members of N.A.L.G.O., whether they attend the School or not. The full rules for the competition are as follows:

1. The competition will be divided into two classes, viz.:

Class 1.—For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more.

Class 2.—For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum.

2. A prize to the value of 3 guineas will be awarded to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class 1; a prize to the value of 2 guineas to the competitor who submits the best essay in Class 2.

3. The competition is open to all members of N.A.L.G.O. in Scotland.

4. No stipulation is made as to the length of the essay.

5. The selections made must be taken as conclusive.

6. Essays must reach the Divisional Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 67 West Nile Street, Glasgow, on or before 14th June, 1937.

7. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a nom de plume and a note stating whether the essay is submitted in Class 1 or 2.

8. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch, and bearing on the outside his nom de plume and the class in which the essay is submitted, must accompany the essay. Indication of the author's identity should not appear on the essay.

9. The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 3, 1937.

The subjects from which the candidates may choose are:

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Regional Administration.
2. What services are best administered locally and why?

LOGOMIA.

The Annual General Meeting of Logomia will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 1937, at 2.30 p.m. in the Sun Lounge, Winter Garden, Margate.

BOOK PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

Open to Local Government Officers, Civil Servants and members of the staffs of quasi-public bodies.

PRIZES:

First	..	..	..	£2	2	0
Second	..	..	..	£1	1	0

The prizes will consist of books to the value mentioned, from the catalogue of Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Limited, publishers of the volume "Public Enterprise."

The subject for the essay is:

"Social Ownership and Control of Undertakings."

Candidates will be expected to have read "Public Enterprise" edited by W. A. Robson (Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d.). The essay should not be in the form of a review, but the adjudicators will recognise a criticism of views in the book and a thesis developed on the basis of the survey of the various quasi-public bodies contained in this work.

Conditions.

1. Write on one side of the paper only, either in typescript or in manuscript.
2. The essay should not exceed two thousand words.
3. Essays must be sent to Mr. L. Hill, General Secretary, National Association of Local Government Officers, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, to reach him by September 30, 1937.
4. Each entry must be headed with a nom de plume, and a sealed envelope, containing the entrant's name and address and bearing on the outside his nom de plume, must accompany the entry. Indication of the entrant's identity must not appear on the entry.

5. The envelope containing the entry must be marked "Essay Competition" in the top left-hand corner.

6. The copyright in each winning entry will belong to the National Association of Local Government Officers.

7. The decision of the judges shall be final, and no correspondence will be entered into on the subject.

Tribunal of Judges.

The following have accepted the invitation of the National Association of Local Government Officers to act as judges in this essay competition:

Sir Henry Bunbury, K.C.B., C.B., Comptroller and Accountant General of the Post Office.

Sir Gwilym Gibbon, C.B., C.B.E., B.A.G., D.Sc. Late Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health.

L. Hill, Esq., C.B.E., M.A., General Secretary National Association of Local Government Officers.

Note on "Public Enterprise," edited by W. A. Robson (Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d. net.)

A number of independent or semi-independent public boards have recently been established for operating public utilities or regulating vast industries. They constitute the most important step in political development and economic organisation which has been taken in this country during recent decades. Hitherto they have received only the most cursory examination. In this volume there are presented for the first time detailed studies of the B.B.C., The London Passenger Transport Board, the Central Electricity Board and the Electricity Commission, the Forestry Commission, the Agricultural Marketing Boards, and the Port of London Authority, together with chapters on the older forms of collective enterprise represented by the Post Office and the Consumers' Co-operative movement. The contributors to the book are experts on the particular quasi-public body on which they have written, and the modern tendency to establish ad hoc bodies and the existing bodies have been completely surveyed in this new and original work.

SOME EXPERIMENTS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

A special course of seven lectures to be given at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street, Aldwych, W.C., at 5 p.m. in each case.

May 5—The London Passenger Transport Board—Mr. John Cliff.

May 19—The General Post Office—The Right Hon. H. B. Lees-Smith.

May 26—The Unemployment Insurance Statutory Committee—Sir William Beveridge, K.C.B.

June 2—The British Broadcasting Corporation—Sir Arthur Salter, K.C.B.

June 9—The Port of London Authority—Sir David Owen.

June 16—Conclusion—Dr. W. A. Robson. Members of the public will be admitted to the course free and without ticket.

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£250 Damages and Costs in Important Slander Case

Slander of a Local Government Officer.

Action taken by the Association on behalf of a member was brought to a successful conclusion at the Durham Winter Assizes on February 19th, 1937, when judgment was given in favour of the Plaintiff for £250 damages, and costs. The proceedings were before Mr. Justice Singleton, who sat with a jury.

The Plaintiff (Mr. T. Walton) who is a Building Manager in the service of the Easington Rural District Council, claimed damages for a statement made by the Defendant (Mr. J. Webster) at a public meeting held in September, 1934.

At that meeting the Defendant asked some questions and then stated "I have been victimised by Mr. Walton, the building manager, because I accused him of pinching bags of cement and taking them into his mother's back yard. I have been to see Mr. Hayes, the architect, who referred me to the building manager, Mr. Walton, and Mr. Walton went to the police station to have me locked up."

As a result of this statement the Plaintiff consulted the Association. Action was delayed, however, because of an investigation by the District Auditor and a skilled quantity surveyor into the truth of this statement and of other allegations (of which, at the hearing, the Defendant stated he had no knowledge). As a result of his investigations the District Auditor reported that he was satisfied that the allegations were not proved to be true, and that there was no evidence that the Council were defrauded of the different materials. His report further stated that, after checking by him and the quantity surveyor, there could not be found in that full and complete investigation any loss on what the Council had paid for. Accordingly, the Plaintiff commenced proceedings against the Defendant.

The Plaintiff's case was that in 1927 he saw the Defendant in Back Hartlepool Street, where the Plaintiff's mother and brother live. He was speaking to his brother when the Defendant approached him and asked him whether he had any work for him. The Plaintiff replied "No, I have no work here," whereupon the Defendant became abusive and adopted a fighting attitude. The Defendant was causing a general disturbance in the street, so the Plaintiff there and then went to the police station, with the result that a police sergeant called upon the Defendant about an hour later to caution him about his conduct.

The Plaintiff denied that there was a Council lorry or bags of cement in the street at the time, and this was corroborated by his brother. The police sergeant, in his evidence, said that the Defendant did not mention bags of cement or the Corporation's property or any lorries when he cautioned him an hour later.

The Defendant's case was that he saw the Plaintiff in Back Hartlepool Street and asked him if he wanted any plasterers. He said he had been sent by Mr. Hayes, who had told him to go and see the Plaintiff when he wanted work. The Plaintiff was coming in with a motor lorry which his brother was driving, and it was a Council lorry. He stopped at his mother's back door. His brother was carrying in a bag of cement and came back with empty bags from the house after he carried them in. The Defendant saw the brother carry three in while he was standing there. When he asked the Plaintiff for work the Plaintiff called him a scoundrel and said he would never receive any more work while the Plaintiff was foreman. He asked the Plaintiff what he was doing and the Plaintiff told him it was his business and not the Defendant's. The Defendant said he had a

right to know because he was a ratepayer, and then he went home. About an hour later the police sergeant came in, and he asked the sergeant if the Plaintiff told him what was taking place in the back street, and the sergeant said "No." The Defendant then told the sergeant that he had seen the Plaintiff's brother carrying cement in and said he thought it belonged to the Council. The sergeant said that he had nothing to do with that; all he had to do was to caution the Defendant.

An independent witness was called by the Defendant to corroborate his statement concerning the lorry and the bags of cement.

The following are extracts from the Judge's summing-up:

"If a person's character is attacked in a way which embraces the making of an accusation of a crime against him or in a way which brings him low in public repute because it is said that he has done something unworthy in his business affairs, something indecent, well, he is entitled to come before a jury and say 'Give me damages.' The Defendant in such a case can say 'I did not speak the words, they do not mean what they say, or, they are privileged,' or he may say 'They are true in substance and in fact.'"

"It is necessary in the public interest that local government should be clean, and if it is not clean those who foul it, if they do, ought to be prosecuted; and if they are defrauding the public and they are brought before a Judge and jury and the jury convict them of fraud in the general run, gaol is the place for them. There can be no doubt about that. Those who are put into a position of trust must not betray that trust. I hope it may be said that in this country as a whole local government is clean, and clean, I hope it may be said, whatever particular Party may be in power in a particular area."

"If you have a man doing work for a local authority, on the one hand, and doing private work on the other, it may lead to questions being raised or it may leave open an avenue for fraud which otherwise would not be there. But why it was thought necessary to set out in the particulars in this case page after page of details where it is said that in 1921 or 1925 this Plaintiff was guilty of some malpractices, I do not know. But I cannot help wondering whether the truth of the matter is that the man of whom you have heard, Councillor Peart, has been behind it. The first day this trial was on you noticed the man sitting behind learned counsel for the defence giving him information from time to time. I do not mind telling you that I thought he was the Defendant until I heard it said that the Defendant was an out-of-work plasterer, and the one sitting behind learned counsel did not look quite like an out-of-work plasterer, but it turned out, so we heard in the course of this case, that it was Councillor Peart, who seems to be a schoolmaster. Well, a schoolmaster may be very useful in his place and is. Nobody has a higher respect for schoolmasters than I have. At the same time there are other duties to which schoolmasters can devote themselves other than the stirring up of strife, and those who do support or maintain an action or defence of this kind against an individual may, of course, at some time have a call of some sort made upon them."

"What does 'pinching' mean except taking something you are not entitled to take? If it does mean that, if it is an allegation at all that he had stolen or that he had appropriated for his own use something which belonged to the Council or taken it to his mother's back-yard or wash-house, whatever it was, if it was said, and if it means that, can you imagine anything more serious to say of a public official even though he was only a building manager?

If you find as a fact that the Plaintiff's case is right and that these words, or words practically to the same effect, were spoken of him relating to his action as the building manager of the Council and accusing him of the sort of things I have mentioned and you find they are untrue, you ought to give the Plaintiff a substantial sum as damages whether the Defendant can pay them or not."

"You need not trouble about any question of privilege; it has not been argued before me, so you have no need to direct your attention to that head."

"Considerations of good government in local affairs are all-important, and it is right you should investigate them when you are asked to do so. But those who make charges of a criminal nature or impute dishonest conduct to public officers must prove them or must have a verdict at the hands of the jury in damages."

After retiring the jury returned a verdict in favour of the Plaintiff for £250 damages, and costs, and the Judge made the remark "It is just the amount, if I were in your place, I should have given to the Plaintiff. It is a sufficient amount to show that such words ought never to have been spoken of the Plaintiff and that they were not true."

Mr. Paley Scott, K.C. and Mr. J. Charlesworth appeared for the Plaintiff, and Mr. Hurwitz and Mr. M. Greenspan for the Defendant.

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY BILL

This Bill makes provision for (*inter alia*) the control of livestock markets and slaughterhouses by the Livestock Commission which is to be set up by the Bill.

A considerable number of local authorities have livestock markets and abattoirs or slaughterhouses, and the provisions of Part IV (with regard to markets) and Part V (with regard to slaughterhouses) may have the effect of closing down or making variations in the use of markets or slaughterhouses, with corresponding alterations in the duties of officers and servants concerned, which may involve, in some cases, loss of employment, and, in others, diminution of salary or wages. The Bill as introduced contained no provision for the compensation of such officers and servants.

As a result of negotiations between the Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, the latter have agreed that a provision should be inserted in the Bill for compensating local government officers and servants who may suffer loss in consequence of the Bill, and for applying the compensation provisions set out in the Fourth Schedule to the Local Government Act, 1933, with the necessary modifications.

On behalf of the Association, Sir Francis Fremantle, M.P., moved the necessary amendment to Clause 46 whilst the Bill was in Committee of the House of Commons. He said: "This amendment . . . deals with the compensation of local government officers who may be displaced under this scheme either with regard to livestock marketing orders or under the slaughtering provisions of this Bill. Provision has already been made in this Bill for compensation in respect of loss or damage regarding land, when used either for holding markets or for slaughterhouses, and for compensation for the right to hold markets and for those who suffer in respect of their business as slaughterers of livestock. In this Amendment we ask that compensation shall be extended to the servants of local government authorities who may be affected."

"I am moving this with a pathetic reference to our late friend and colleague, Sir Henry Jackson, the Member for Central Wandsworth, who has always done such good service for the National Association of Local Government Officers, and who asked me a few days before his death if I would take on the responsibility for this Amendment."

The Minister of Agriculture, in reply, said that he was prepared to accept the amendment, and the amendment was agreed to.

Here, There and Everywhere

By "UBIQUITOUS"

IN THE METROPOLIS

The **Bromley** Municipal Players presented a very successful production of the play "Caesar's Friend," by Campbell Dixon and Dermot Morrah, to a full house at the Robert Whyte Memorial Hall, Bromley, on March 17.

The play was produced by Miss Dorothy L. Marsh, who also designed the five extremely effective sets, and the acting of her cast of twenty-two was notable for its sincerity and its success in really bringing to life the historic characters of A.D. 33.

The stage management was undertaken very successfully by Mr. L. Wood. Mr. E. J. Grout (lighting manager) assisted. A string orchestra under the direction of Mr. E. A. Gooch provided incidental music.

The **Bromley** Branch held its 26th Annual Dinner at the White Hart Hotel recently. The chair was taken by Mr. A. C. Cleveland, president, and supporting the president were the mayor (Councillor E. J. Bettson, J.P.), the mayoress, and chief officials of the council. The toast of "The President" was proposed by Mr. G. R. Woods, in a witty and entertaining speech, to which the president replied. The mayor responded in characteristically breezy style to the toast of "The Mayor," proposed by Mr. John Clapp.

Humorous entertainment followed, and a most successful function was brought to a close.

The annual dinner of the **East Ham** Branch was held at the Hotel Frascati, London, on Saturday, April 10, 1937, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. W. Green.

The company numbered 130 and included the mayor of the borough (Mr. Alderman J. W. Barton, J.P.) and the mayoress, the deputy-mayor (Mr. Alderman J. J. Pope, J.P.) and the deputy-mayoress, a number of members of the corporation and their ladies, Mr. J. L. Holland, B.A., vice-president of the National Association, and representatives of the West Ham and Barking Branches.

After dinner the company were entertained to a musical programme under the direction of Mr. E. F. Rutt, interspersed by speeches.

Mr. Green proposed the toast of "The County Borough of East Ham," to which the mayor replied, referring to the Local Joint Committee and paying tribute to its usefulness.

Mr. P. E. Harbott proposed the toast of "The Visitors," to which Mr. Holland and Mr. Gordon Warren, accountant to the Hornchurch Urban District Council and an ex-East Ham officer, responded. Mr. Holland made appreciative reference to the achievements of the Branch.

At the conclusion of the speech-making the company engaged in dancing until midnight under the direction of Mr. H. C. Lunn.

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FROM THE NORTH-WEST

North-Western and North Wales District Committee.

The quarterly meeting of the **North-Western and North Wales District Committee** was held at the Town Hall, Liverpool, on Saturday, April 10, 1937, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Whinnerah.

The delegates, numbering some 200, were welcomed by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool (Alderman W. Denton, J.P., and Mrs. Denton).

The attention of the meeting was drawn to a circular issued by the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, on which the divisional secretary was requested to investigate.

Considered amendments to the items on the conference agenda were tabled.

Grants of £3 3s. 6d. each to six applicants in respect of the summer schools were confirmed, also fifteen grants of £3 3s. 6d. each to various Branches towards the expenses of sending a delegate to conference were confirmed.

It was reported that a Chester and North Wales Area Education Committee had been formed.

The delegates were entertained to afternoon tea by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

At a meeting held at **Chester** on January 28 it was decided to form a Chester and North Wales Area Education Committee. This meeting was attended by representatives from the Branches in the district. The constitution of the committee is to be one member per affiliated Branch, and the affiliation fee 2s. 6d. per annum (minimum). It is hoped to arrange for next winter four lectures at suitable centres in the area.

The members of the **Heywood** Branch of N.A.L.G.O., at their March meeting, presented Mr. W. C. Anderson, who has concluded his services as deputy town clerk at Heywood, with a leather suitcase. Mr. Anderson was recently appointed assistant solicitor in the Legal Department of N.A.L.G.O.

Mr. J. T. Pearson, B.Sc., director of education, presided. The gift was handed to Mr. Anderson by Mr. F. Johnston, the town clerk, who wished Mr. Anderson every success in his new position.

BOROUGH OF FINCHLEY

TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT—JUNIOR COMMITTEE CLERK

The Council of the Borough of Finchley invites applications for the appointment of a Junior Committee Clerk in the Town Clerk's Department, at a commencing salary of £200 per annum.

Forms of application may be obtained from the undersigned, to whom they should be returned, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, by not later than first post on Thursday, the 13th May, 1937.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be deemed a disqualification.

H. WOOD BARTER,
Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices,
Finchley, N.3.
April 20, 1937.

NORTH-WEST

The Town Clerk of **Middlesbrough** (Mr. Preston Kitchen), on behalf of the staff, recently presented a clock and silver bowl to Mr. A. E. Gilfillan (deputy town clerk), who has left Middlesbrough to take up an appointment at Barnsley.

The **Newcastle-on-Tyne** Branch, in its efforts to assist the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, has recently formed a dramatic society. The society has produced "Polly With a Past," a comedy, at the Peoples Theatre, and the show was an outstanding success, bringing to light some remarkably fine talent among the cast.

YORKSHIRE

Mr. L. H. Clarke, A.R.I.B.A., past president and present chairman of the **Harrogate** Branch Executive Committee, has recently been appointed Borough Engineer and Surveyor to the Harrogate Corporation.

Sports.

The **Yorkshire** District Table Tennis Competition has, since its inauguration in 1933, proved to be one of the most popular events in the North. This year's final, played at Dewsbury, between **Leeds** and **Bradford** Branches, was a very keenly contested encounter, Leeds (who had held the trophy for three successive years) being narrowly beaten by 13 games to 12. The winners are to be congratulated on their fine performance.

EAST MIDLANDS

East Midland District Committee

Addressing a meeting of the **East Midland District Committee** at the County Offices, Derby, on April 10, Alderman H. R. Cleaver, Chairman of the Derby County Council, offered the representatives a hearty welcome to Derby.

Thanking Alderman Cleaver for his address, the chairman (Mr. H. S. Sherwin, Nottingham) congratulated him upon his recent election to the chairmanship of the County Council.

The principal business of the meeting was consideration of the agenda for the forthcoming annual conference.

The Report of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund Regional Committee stated that at their last meeting, twenty-one cases were dealt with, and that in 1936 grants totalling over £600 were made to cases in the district.

The divisional secretary reported that the membership in 1936 had increased from 5,509 to 6,262, and that in the last ten years the Branches had increased from 26 to 48 and membership from 2,644 to 6,262; and that in the same period subscriptions to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund had grown from £362 to £913.

Reports on action taken in the field of service conditions were also made.

After the meeting, the representatives were generously entertained to tea by the Derbyshire County Council Branch.

A dinner of the members of the **Chesterfield and District Sub-Branch** was held at the Station Hotel, Chesterfield, on April 3. Mr. H. Stubbs presided. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, responded to the toast of N.A.L.G.O. and the Visitors.

Members and friends of the **Holland County Officers' Branch** (Spalding Area) held a very successful entertainment, supper and dance in the Co-operative Hall, Spalding on April 2. There were about 150 present including 30 members from Boston and the event took the nature of a challenge by the Spalding members to Boston to produce a better entertainment, and this attempt will be made by Boston at an early date. The proceedings commenced with a revue entitled "Enterprise" introduced by the Clerk to the Spalding Urban District Council (Mr. Raymand W. Hastings) and compered by Mr. Frank Tero. There were many very successful entertainment items, and those present enjoyed a thoroughly pleasant evening.

Mr. Geo. H. Parker on retiring from the position of collector to the **Hucknall Urban District Council** was presented with a handsome piece of plate by the officers of the council as a token of their esteem for their late colleague.

The first annual dinner of the **Kesteven County Council Branch** was most enjoyable. Mr. W. T. Phipps, Clerk of the Council and president of the branch, presided over a representative attendance.

Responding to the toast of N.A.L.G.O., proposed by Mr. W. T. Phipps, Mr. J. L. Holland, vice-president of N.A.L.G.O., in a delightful speech, referred to the far-reaching activities of the Association and its importance in Local Government. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, responded for "The Visitors."

Miniature badges of office of president have been presented to four past-presidents of the **Leicester Branch** as a token of appreciation of their valuable services. The past-presidents are: Mr. J. J. Clist, Mr. H. C. Mansfield, Mr. T. S. Griffin, and Mr. E. Robins.

A successful film display was given by the **Long Eaton Branch** (in conjunction with the Long Eaton Co-operative Society's Education Committee) at the Arcade Premises, Long Eaton, at which about 120 people attended.

The programme consisted of the Long Eaton U.D.C. Activities, a film showing the various activities of the Council; a film in colour of the Long Eaton Hospital Carnival, 1936; Nutrition; The Dentist (comedy) and a Song Film. Three of the films were "talkies" and a running commentary on the Council and Carnival films was given by Mr. J. H. Poyser (Co-op. Education Committee).

Councillor W. F. Brentnall, J.P. (chairman of the Long Eaton U.D.C.) presided, supported by Councillor J. R. Davis.

The collection on behalf of local charities realised £1 2s.

An enjoyable tournament was arranged with the Long Eaton Gas Co., Nalco losing by 11 games to 8.

In addition, two social evenings were arranged with the Council's Fire Brigade. Billiards, whist, darts, bagatelle, etc. filled the evening, the firemen winning on both occasions.

Although the Branch has a membership of only 27, it has an energetic Executive Committee, and an outdoor programme is being arranged for the summer.

The **Loughborough Branch** held an enjoyable dinner at the Bull's Head Hotel, on April 8. Mr. Raymond Prince, Gas

Manager, presided and was supported by the mayor (Councillor A. Lacey, J.P.), Alderman McGhie, chairman of the Finance Committee; Mr. A. G. Davies, town clerk, Mr. Lucas E. Rumsey, clerk of the County Council, and Mrs. Rumsey, and Mr. A. B. Day. Responding to the toast—N.A.L.G.O.—Mr. Rumsey referred to the wonderful growth of the Association and the importance of its activities.

Mr. W. H. Hare, Baths Superintendent, presided over the annual dinner of the **Mansfield Branch** which was held at the Victoria Hotel on March 18. The company included the mayor (Councillor T. Pembleton) who proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O. and the Mansfield and District Branch" to which Mr. L. E. Rumsey (clerk of the Leicester C.C.) N.E.C., replied.

The **Staveley Branch** organised its first whist drive and dance in Markham Hall, Staveley on March 10. The function proved a great success. The proceeds were for the District Coronation Fund, and Mr. H. H. Stanley, president of the branch and clerk to the Staveley U.D.C., acted as M.C. and expressed thanks to the chairman of the Council, Councillor W. H. Fern, J.P., for distributing the prizes.

There were over 180 guests at the very happy function organised by the **Smethwick Branch**, which took place in the Blue Gates Hotel on March 18, and Mr. E. L. Twycross, deputy town clerk and president of the branch, was in the chair. The dinner was preceded by a reception which was held in the Masonic Hall.

The toasts honoured at the dinner included:

"Mayor and Corporation," proposed by the president; response by the mayor. "National Association of Local Government Officers," proposed by Mr. Frank Chapman, town clerk; response, Mr. William Armitage, senior vice-president and chairman of the National Executive Council.

"Our Guests," proposed by Mr. H. N. Schrader, hon. secretary of the Smethwick Branch; responses, Mr. R. H. Morgan, Member of Parliament for the Stourbridge Division, and Mr. G. A. Stone, president of the West Midlands District.

The seventh annual dinner of the **Walsall Branch** was held at the George Hotel on March 18. About 130 guests were present, including the mayor and mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. A. J. Stanley), Mr. L. Hill, C.B.E. (General Secretary of N.A.L.G.O.), Alderman E. H. Ingram (chairman of the Finance Committee) and Mr. W. A. Taylor (president of the Walsall Chamber of Commerce). The toast of the "Guests" was proposed by the borough treasurer (Mr. D. H. Charlesworth) president of the branch, to which the mayor replied. Alderman Ingram proposed the toast of N.A.L.G.O. to which Mr. L. Hill responded.

Dancing brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

WEST MIDLANDS

Expressions of esteem and regard were paid by the officers and staff of the **Burton Corporation** when a Barograph was presented to Mr. George T. Lynam on March 11, 1937. Mr. Lynam (a former

president of the branch, and one keenly interested in N.A.L.G.O.) recently retired from the office of borough engineer and surveyor of the County Borough after a period of nearly 40 years.

The presentation, which was organised by the Burton Branch, was made by the president (Mr. A. B. Slater, Transport Manager). The town clerk (Mr. H. Bailey Chapman) occupied the chair and was supported by chief officers and many members.

Mr. Lynam replied to the presentation in reminiscent mood.

A general meeting of the **Central Warwick Branch** was held at the Pump Rooms on April 16, to approve revised rules. Mr. J. Sutcliffe, borough surveyor, presided, and the divisional secretary, addressed the meeting on the activities of N.A.L.G.O.

The officers of the **Darlaston U.D.C.** have formed a Branch from April 1. Welcome to N.A.L.G.O.!

The ninth annual dinner of the **Salop County Branch** was held at Morris's Cafe, Shrewsbury, on March 30. The clerk of the County Council (Mr. W. L. Edge) presided over a large company.

The toast "The County Council and Local Government" was proposed by Mr. G. A. V. Duckworth, M.P., to which Mr. T. Ward Green, chairman of the County Council, responded.

Capt. Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., proposed the toast of the Association.

Mr. G. A. Stone responded.

"Our Guests" was proposed by Mr. W. H. Butler, county surveyor, and responded to by Mr. E. B. Fielden, chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The **Wednesbury Branch** held a meeting on April 15, 1937. It is found advisable to hold a meeting other than the annual meeting to review events and to give members an opportunity of making any suggestions as to future activities. Expressions of thanks were registered in connection with the adoption of an improved grading scheme, and it was reported that membership figures were the highest on record.

Under the auspices of the **Warwickshire County Council Branch**, a demonstration of table tennis was held in the Shire Hall on Friday, March 19, following the playing of the semi-final and final rounds of the branch tournament.

A gathering of nearly 300 witnessed a very interesting display of both singles and doubles matches.

During an interval in the demonstration, Mrs. L. Edgar Stephens presented the prizes won earlier in the evening.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Stephens by Miss Tina Kean.

At the close of the proceedings Mr. H. J. Kotch proposed a vote of thanks to the demonstrators, and Mr. A. A. Haydon responded.

EASTERN DISTRICT

The quarterly meeting of the **Eastern District Committee** was held in London on April 10, 1937, Mr. W. E. Hudson (Essex) presiding.

The committee learned with satisfaction of arrangements for convening a conference

of Local Authorities' representatives in the Eastern Area.

The committee received an interesting report from Mr. S. W. Edwards, honorary secretary of the Area Education Committee on a successful Week-end School recently held at Peterhouse, Cambridge.

A report was made with regard to the decision of the N.E.C. concerning the areas and duties of divisional secretaries, and the committee were in general agreement with the revised proposed arrangements, which are understood to be of a temporary character only.

A considerable portion of the time of the meeting was occupied in consideration of the agenda of the annual conference.

Mr. T. M. Kershaw, the divisional secretary, reported on his work in the area, and Messrs. A. D. Ogden and E. F. Bacon on the work of the National Executive Council and its committees during the past quarter.

The first annual dinner and dance of the **South-West Herts Branch**, was held at Watford on Friday, March 12, 1937. There was an excellent attendance of 127 members and friends; the guests of the evening were the Mayor and Mayoress of Watford and the chairman of the Rickmansworth U.D.C., Mr. J. J. Middleton J.P. and Mrs. Middleton.

The toast of "The Local Authorities" was proposed by Mr. J. Ginger, borough treasurer of Watford. The Mayor of Watford replied on behalf of the Local Authorities in the Area. The toast of "The Branch" was proposed by Mr. J. J. Middleton. Mr. Hudson, town clerk of Watford, briefly replied, and added the thanks of the members to Mr. A. Shiner, the hon. secretary.

Entertainment in between the speeches was provided by Leonard Henry. Dancing followed after the dinner, until midnight.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

The **South-Eastern District Committee** held its usual quarterly meeting at 24, Abingdon Street, London, on Saturday, April 10, Mr. W. A. N. Baker occupying the chair.

A report of the Whitleyism Sub-committee was presented. The sub-committee recommended that the National Executive Council be informed that the South-Eastern District Committee is in favour of the establishment of a Provincial Whitley Council for its area. The recommendation was approved.

An invitation to hold the next meeting at Brighton was accepted.

Following a resolution for the re-constitution of the Area Education Committee passed at the last meeting, nominations were presented for election to this committee, and it was agreed that all the nominees be appointed.

The divisional secretary (Mr. F. Thomas) reported a remarkable growth in membership in the district in the past year, the figure on January 31, 1937, being 4,724, an increase of 560 compared with the corresponding date in 1936.

Mr. Baker (sports secretary) reported that the snooker competition was won by the Tonbridge Branch and the table tennis by the Hastings Branch.

Considerable attention was given to the agenda for the Margate Conference and to the annual report of the National Executive Council, and several amendments were agreed upon.

During the meeting an impressive ceremony occurred when a presentation was made to Mr. Arthur Webb, the past chairman of the district committee. Mr. Webb, who was accompanied by his wife and family, thanked the committee for their gifts.

At the **Gravesend Town Hall** Mr. George Raymond, who retired on March 31 from the position of chief clerk in the Town Clerk's Department, was presented recently with a solid silver tankard suitably inscribed and a cheque for £90 from his colleagues and other friends in the district. The presentations were made by the Town Clerk (Mr. H. H. Brown, M.A.) in the presence of a large gathering presided over by the mayor (Councillor H. A. Hodge, J.P.).

The **Canterbury and District Branch** recently organised a "Bun-Penny Week." During a certain period members were requested to donate to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund all pennies and halfpennies bearing the head of the late Queen Victoria which came into their possession. The proceeds (£3 10s. 5d.) have been handed over to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

The last of a series of whist drives and dances organised by the **Devon County Council Staff Association** was held at Dellers Cafe, Exeter, on Friday, March 19. Mr. A. J. Withycombe, the Clerk of the Devon County Council, president of the branch, attended with Mrs. Withycombe, who presented the whist prizes.

The company, which numbered about 230, danced to the music of Charles Rowe's band, from Torquay.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.

The recent quarterly meeting of the **South Wales District Committee** was held in the City Hall, Cardiff, with Mr. J. W. Clayton (Pontypridd) in the chair.

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Committee which indicates that the National Whitley Council has been approached with a view to the early establishment of a Provincial Whitley Council for South Wales.

With regard to the Superannuation Bill, it was reported that everything possible is being done at headquarters to secure the early introduction of the Bill.

The report, which was approved, also urges a holiday centres reunion for South Wales members, to be held in the district.

The district committee then proceeded to consider the annual report of the National Executive Council and the agenda for the annual conference which will be held next Whitsuntide at Margate.

The divisional secretary's report was submitted, showing that the membership of N.A.L.G.O. in South Wales now totals 4,627 members, an increase of 291 for the past year.

After the meeting the City of Cardiff Branch kindly entertained the delegates to tea.

Mr. W. J. Williams, M.A., director of education for the city and president of the City of Cardiff Branch, welcomed the delegates to Cardiff.

The hon. secretary to the district committee, Mr. Rhys Williams, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Williams for his welcome in the name of the City of Cardiff

Branch, said that the appointment of Mr. Williams as the city's director of education was very pleasing.

Mr. A. J. Cottle (Abertillery) seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation.

The second annual dinner of the **Abertillery Branch**, held at the Bush Hotel, Abertillery, was well attended and most enjoyable. Mr. Harold Powell, accountant, presided, and was supported by the chairman of the council (Councillor W. Beynon, J.P.), Councillor T. Gale, Mr. A. J. Cottle (hon. secretary), and Mr. J. E. N. Davis (divisional secretary).

A whist drive and dance has recently been held by the **Merthyr Tydfil Branch**, and although there were several counter attractions in the town on the same night, it is hoped to forward a donation to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. The function was attended by the mayor and several members of the town council.

Newport (Mon.) Bowls Club enters upon its fourth season on May 1 with a membership of 60 and the confidence of an established club. Thirty-two matches have been arranged, including new fixtures with Newport Bank Officers, the Macintosh Club, and Whitchurch.

Mr. C. E. Gough Jones, Deputy Works Manager, is this year's captain, and Mr. H. B. Hudson, Electricity Department, is vice-captain.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

(Continued from page 122.)

APRIL 15

37/GEN/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing a form for notifying changes in branch membership between February 1 and April 30, 1937.

38/GEN/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing voting papers in connection with the election of Honorary Officers for the year 1937-38, and voting papers for determining the venue of the Annual Conference, 1938.

39/BO/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Containing information relating to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund purse session at the Annual Conference, Margate.

40/BO/37

(To each branch secretary.)

Regarding applications for assistance from the Benevolent and Orphan Fund from members who have resorted to moneylenders.

41/ED/37

(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)

Enclosing a copy of a booklet outlining the Association's educational policy and stating that further copies will be supplied on request.

42/ED/37

(To each branch secretary and education correspondent.)

(a) Regarding the Association's summer schools for 1937 and enclosing a booklet containing full information. Further copies of this booklet may be obtained on application.

(b) Concerning the Prize Essay Competition.

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

Annual General Meeting
Friday, May 14, 1937, at
4.30 p.m. in the Winter
Gardens, MARGATE.

Among the New Publications

"Trade Union Accounting and Financial Administration," by A. E. Ward and C. R. Sweetingham (Pitman, 3s. 6d. net) is a practical treatise giving a detailed summary of the principal characteristics of the accounting systems of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers; National Union of Printing, Bookbinding and Paper Workers; National Union of Railwaymen; Railway Clerks' Association; and Transport and General Workers' Union. It forms a valuable basis of comparison and interchange of ideas for officers and others interested in the efficient administration of trade unions, and shows quite clearly the relationships between the head offices, the district offices and the branches.

"The Planning of Town Halls" is the first of a series of books which will be published under the Planning of Modern Buildings series by the Architectural Press at 6s. net. This book serves a very useful twofold purpose. In the first place it gives designers of buildings some information about the real functions and administration of a civic centre and, secondly, it brings together quite a lot of comparatively new knowledge in the designing of municipal buildings. It is full of ideas and should be useful to a very large number of our readers, particularly, of course, those who are engaged in the architectural profession.

Libraries and the Public, by Lionel R. McColvin. George Allen and Unwin, Limited. Price 5s. This book should be of particular interest to members of Library Committees and of the general public who would know something about the problems of the librarian. General questions have been dealt with on non-technical lines, and the book discusses the functions and importance of the Public Library service. The present state of the Library service is surveyed and desirable lines of development and further opportunities are considered. The book is, in effect, a philosophy of librarianship stated in practical terms.

The British Film Institute has published at 1s. the **"Report of the Conference on Films for Children"** which took place on November 20th and 21st last. The Conference was organised to consider how film entertainment specifically designed for children could be provided at public cinemas. Amongst the speakers were Mr. S. W. Harris, Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, Mr. S. Rowson, President of the British Kinematograph Society, Dr. Emanuel Miller, Honorary Director of the East London Child Guidance Clinic, Mr. Kenneth Nyman, Chairman of the London Branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, and Mr. Sidney Bernstein, Managing Director of the Bernstein chain

of theatres. The British Film Institute is considering the proposals that emerged from the Conference so as to put them into effect as soon as possible.

"Live Cartridge," by Carlton Dawe (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net), is another episode in the adventurous life of the famous Colonel Gantian, otherwise "Leathermouth," but this time it is not a secret service matter. It was a question of the shooting of Lord Pelsham on a set in a film studio. Was it accident or murder? The inquest says accident. But Gantian is not quite sure and proceeds to investigate on his own account—especially when a similar accident nearly befalls himself. A vivid story from beginning to end.

It is the Royal Wedding procession; blare of martial music, glitter of proud uniforms; roar of a delighted populace in the London streets. Then, when the royal couple have passed, people turn to behold an elderly woman, alive one moment—mortally stabbed the next. What is the secret of her death? The reader will surely never know until Charman Edwards himself reveals it in the last chapter of **"Confetti for a Killing"** (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net). There are surprises, disappointments, and suspicions, until hardly a character seems blameless. Most important of all, there is that amusing old hero of Charman Edwards' other books of mystery and detection, Mr. Percy Aloysius Huff, O.B.E., who is assisted for the first time by that scandalous young member of modern society, the Hon. Betty Jetland.

Now is the month of May

A month of traditional charm, a fitting prelude to the approach of summer. In spite of that, you will not be misled into believing that all Health rules may be

abandoned. Remember that it is a sound rule to safeguard your health by joining the Nalگو Provident Society.

In this way, if you are ill the extra expense will be met by the sickness benefit due to you. This means peace of mind and extra nourishment, essential to a quick recovery.

The Local Correspondent of your branch will gladly show you how the scheme operates, or your inquiries will be welcomed by the

MONTHLY Contribution		WEEKLY Benefit
s. d.		s. d.
1 0	provides	7 0
2 0	"	14 0
3 0	"	21 0
4 0	"	28 0
5 0	"	35 0
6 0	"	42 0
7 0	"	49 0
8 0	"	56 0
9 0	"	63 0

Nalگو Provident Society
24, Abingdon Street,
London, S.W.1

Please send particulars
of the above sickness
scheme to:—

Mr. Mrs. or Miss

Post in open envelope.
1d. stamp.

Nalگو Provident Society

Telephone: WHitehall 9351

24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1

N.A.L.G.O. SWISS HOLIDAYS

As a result of the announcement regarding the arrangements made to provide members of N.A.L.G.O. and their friends with holidays in Switzerland published in the March issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, a tremendous number of enquiries have been received, and there is every indication that the Swiss Holidays are going to prove a huge success. This enthusiasm is very gratifying, as it is the intention of Headquarters only to present to members holiday arrangements which have been fully investigated and are considered good enough for its members—and only the best will do!

For the benefit of those who have not spent a holiday in Switzerland before, the hotel accommodation is exceedingly good. Hot and cold running water in bedrooms is almost general. The beds are extremely comfortable, and rooms are nicely furnished. Food is excellent, and so far as hotel accommodation is concerned, everyone is assured of satisfaction. Generally speaking, the hotels in Switzerland are classified from A—G, and the hotels selected for N.A.L.G.O., and included in the charge, are all of the "C" class. As far as possible N.A.L.G.O. members will be accommodated in one hotel at each centre.

In the March issue the Lugano programme was published, and this month the Lucerne programme is shown.

LAKE OF LUCERNE

Weggis—Vitznau—Gersau—Brunnen
£15 9 7 for 16 days.

£10 3 10 for 9 days.

High Season Supplement (July 17th—August 21st) 7s. 6d. per week.

1. RETURN RAIL TICKETS from London to place of destination, 3rd class England and Switzerland, 2nd class Belgium and France, 1st class on Channel Steamers (Dover—Ostend).
2. RESERVATION ON TRAIN on Outward and Homeward Journey.
3. DINNER ON TRAIN on Outward Journey.
4. BREAKFAST AT BASLE (Swiss Frontier Station) on Outward Journey.
5. SERVICES OF SWISS HOTEL PLAN REPRESENTATIVES at Main Stations (London-Victoria, Ostend, Brussels, Basle, Lucerne, Interlaken, Lugano).
6. SERVICES OF COURIER ON TRAIN from London (minimum 20 persons).
7. FREE TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS' BAGGAGE from Railway or Steamship Station at destination to and from Hotel.
8. ACCOMMODATION WITH FULL PENSION for 13 days (3 meals).
9. TIPS AND TAXES (Hotel, Kur-Sport and Orchestra Taxes).
10. LIGHT AND HEATING in the Hotel.
11. ONE EXTRA LUNCH AND DINNER (or Dinner Basket) on day of arrival and on day of departure respectively.

12. FREE SERVICES OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES of the SWISS HOTEL PLAN.
13. STEAMER SEASON TICKET FOR LAKE OF LUCERNE, allowing an unlimited number of trips on all steamers.
14. MOUNTAIN RAILWAY SEASON TICKET allowing an unlimited number of journeys on the following lines:—
RAILWAYS: Lucerne-Stansstad-Engelberg.
FUNICULAR Rlys.: Engelberg-Gerschnialp. Stans-Stanserhorn. Kehrsiten-Burgenstock.
COG-WHEEL Rlys.: Vitznau-Rigi. Alpnachstad-Mount Pilatus. Brunnen-Morschach-Axenstein. Treib-Seelisberg.
AERIAL CABLE Rlys.: Gerschnialp-Trubsee. Beckenried-Clevenalp.
15. FREE UNLIMITED ADMISSION TO THE BATHING BEACHES at the different resorts on the lake.
16. SPECIAL FACILITIES for the Hire of Gondolas, for Excursions, etc.
17. REDUCED PRICES for various entertainments.
18. FREE BAGGAGE INSURANCE up to £50.
19. FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE up to £500.
20. FREE PRINTED GUIDE and map with Time Tables for the local excursions.

LUGANO DISTRICT

Lugano—Castagnola :: Lugano—Paradiso
£13 10 6 for 16 days.

£9 12 0 for 9 days.

High Season Supplement (March 20th to May 23rd and September 4th to October 9th) 9s. 6d. per week.

INTERLAKEN AND THE BERNESE OBERLAND

Interlaken :: Bönigen :: Wilderswil :: Lauterbrunnen
Ringgenberg
£15 9 4 for 16 days.

£10 10 10 for 9 days.

High Season Supplement (July 17th to August 14th) 7s. 6d. per week.

Illustrated folder, further particulars and booking form are obtainable from N.A.L.G.O. Special Activities Dept., 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

N.A.L.G.O. INFORMAL TRAVELS (Cargo Boat Holidays).

As a result of the announcement contained in the March and April issues of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, a large number of enquiries have been received, and there is every indication that these Holidays are going to prove popular with members. Those members who are thinking of taking a Cargo Boat Holiday this year should write at once for full particulars to N.A.L.G.O. Special Activities Dept., 24, Abingdon Street, S.W.1. A list of sailings will be forwarded by return, and immediate bookings is advised to assure accommodation being available.

On the Turntable

THERE will doubtless be many records full of patriotic sentiment for Coronation time. The vanguard of these head the April "H.M.V." Bulletin. First, there is a record of the stupendous variety, Massed Symphony Orchestras and Organ, with a big choir, the soloists being Dennis Noble and Betty Bannerman. It is called "England, My England," and starting off with a rousing fanfare, introduces such favourites as "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Jerusalem," and concludes with Elgar's magnificent arrangement of "God Save the King" (H.M.V. C2898).

The B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, under Sir Adrian Boult, gives fine renderings of "God Save the King," "Rule Britannia," and the "British Grenadiers," on H.M.V. B8553. Peter Dawson sings a stirring Patriotic Medley—"Britain's Heritage," which includes old-timers such as "Hearts of Oak" and the "Red, White, and Blue" (H.M.V. C2866).

A very charming Fantasia, "The British Empire," consists of distinctive melodies

of the Homeland and the Dominions, arranged by Haydn Wood and played by the Mayfair Symphony Orchestra (H.M.V. C2893).

New Negro Spirituals

Paul Robeson returns to his true loves, the Negro Spirituals, and his latest record contains four short examples, which will be new to most. They are "Mam'selle Marie," a Creole song; "Dere's No Hidin' Place"; "Hammer Song," an old negro's farewell; and "L'il David, Play on Yo' Harp." In the last two Lawrence Brown, who accompanies, also sings (H.M.V. B8541).

Light Orchestral

On the light instrumental side there are a number of attractive selections and medleys. The London Palladium Orchestra play a selection from "The Vagabond King," which is now being revived at the London Coliseum (H.M.V. C2895). A particularly clever record is a symphonic arrangement of Rag-Time tunes called "Ragging the Rag," arranged by George Walter. Coupled with it is "The Whirl

of the Waltz" (H.M.V. C2896). There is also a selection from the great West-End success "Balalaika," by the same orchestra, (H.M.V. C2894). Anton and the Paramount Theatre Orchestra, London, with Al Bollington at the Organ, offer a selection from two of the new films, "Banjo on My Knee" and "Champs-Élysées" (H.M.V. BD415), while Louis Levy and his Gaumont-British Symphony are represented by "Taking a Stroll Around the Park," from the film "Variety Parade," and "Turning the Town Upside Down," from the film "O.H.M.S." (H.M.V. BD416). Reginald Foort has chosen a selection from "The Mikado," as his second record on the new B.B.C. Theatre Organ, and Sullivan's haunting melodies suit this medium very well (H.M.V. BD418). "Fats" Waller, the American Swing pianist and band leader, plays two of his own compositions as piano solos—"Smashing Thirds" and "African Ripples" (H.M.V. B8546). Barnabas Von Geczy and his Orchestra play two favourites very daintily—Toselli's "Serenade" and the Serenade from "Les Millions d'Arlequin" (Drigo) (H.M.V. B8551), a very charming example of what one might term Restaurant Music.

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"
"The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc.

WE have had our little chats about the Coronation, now very close. One still reads of thousands upon thousands of Rhododendrons coming on in tubs, and realises, consequently, that the nursery-men are leaving nothing to chance. These clever fellows can command a situation, in one way or another, whatever the weather may be, and they intend to do it now. It is the fact, however, that in years when there is no Coronation to dictate a particular date, Rhododendrons are sometimes lifted from the open ground and transplanted early in May, to flower the same month or in the early part of June; for the Rhododendron is not only the most gloriously beautiful of all evergreen shrubs, but also one of the most amenable. The plants must be bristling with unopened flower-buds when moved.

I think, however, that more amateur gardeners will be getting their lawns into order, planting herbaceous stuff, preparing half-hardy annuals, and making preparations for a turnover from bulbs and biennials to summer bedders in May than will be transplanting evergreens. In this connection let us not be afraid to plant herbaceous things that are in growth, always provided there is a nice "ball" of moist soil and roots. Practically all the fibrous-rooted hardy perennials will stand up to it; it is only the fleshy-rooted kinds that jib.

Hardy and half-hardy seedling plants in boxes will in some cases include Ageratums, white Alyssums, Antirrhinums in many colours, annual Asters of various types (not forgetting the single) Calendulas, Clarkias, Coreopsis, Cornflowers, Dahlias, Godetias, Helichrysums (everlastings), Heliotropes, Lobelias, Marigolds, Nemesias, Petunias, Salpiglossis, Salvias, Stocks, Sweet peas, Verbenas and Zinnias. All of these may go out after Whitsun in mild districts. Zinnias are, perhaps, the annuals most in need of care. It is not only frost which has to be thought of, but bitter winds, to which these beautiful plants cannot stand up.

Of tubers there are Begonias, Cannas, and Dahlias, all somewhat tender, which are best held back till June. If the stock of young plants has been potted, well and good. Shelter and adequate watering, with ventilation, will then see them through.

One of the most beautiful flower-beds which I saw last year was composed of two varieties of tuberous Begonia, one crimson and one yellow, intermixed with a grey-leaved plant generally grown under the name Gnaphalium microphyllum, but for which the botanists have the alternative name of Helichrysum angustifolium—both "mouthfuls." It is a narrow-leaved straggler and makes a nice groundwork. A margin of white Alyssum completed the bed, which was a very distinctive one.

With most biennial plants it may be rather a question of sowing for next year than of planting this spring, as some are well on the way to blooming. Sow Canterbury Bells, Columbines, Delphiniums (Perennials, but answer well when treated as biennials), Forget-me-nots, Foxgloves, Geums (see under Delphiniums), Lupins (see

under Delphiniums), Pansies (see under Delphiniums), Pyrethrums (see under Delphiniums), Stocks of the Brompton type, Sweet Williams, and ordinary and Siberian Wallflowers—all these can be sown outdoors in May for next year.

Some growers of Hollyhocks treat them as biennials, sowing in summer, wintering in a frame, and planting out after mid-May to bloom in summer, then discarding them after flowering—the more readily if a disease has smitten them.

Pentstemons, often raised from September cuttings, can be raised from seed in the same way as Hollyhocks, if desired. They are true perennials and very beautiful ones.

Polyanthuses, Primroses and Alpine Auriculas also may be mentioned, because being spring bloomers they can be sown outdoors now by those who do not find it convenient to sow in heat in winter. Given good soil at the time of planting in autumn, the strongest may bloom well the following year; while the more backward will flower the following year. I believe in shifting old plants when the flowers fade and giving them a semi-shady position for the summer. A hot dry site is not suitable.

The pruning of Roses will have been completed by now, and in connection with these popular plants I observe a tendency on the part of growers whose stock suffers from black spot to prune hard in autumn instead of waiting for spring, so as to get rid, before winter, of all the portions which have been infected. There is, of course, a risk in this, as new shoots may start prematurely after a mild winter and get nipped by late frosts. However, black spot is so tiresome that I will not dissuade anyone who is willing to face a risk. Look out for the disease this summer and weigh the matter in autumn.

I hope that all my readers aim at a water garden, even if small, and I remind them that early May is a good time for planting new or replanting established pieces. Some readers acted earlier, no doubt, and are now in the happy position of seeing the pools filled to the brim with perfectly clear water, such being a gift of the much-maligned winter rains. I had better add that it is not necessary to divide clumps of Nymphaeas every year, in fact, they may be left for several years; but an annual change of water is desirable.

A thought must soon be given to providing shading for the glass of the greenhouse and horticultural sundriesmen supply suitable washes at low prices.

It is a suitable time for sowing Cinerarias and Primulas, also for repotting young Cyclamens, to bloom next winter.

Room plants generally will need more water as the days lengthen and gain heat.

Window boxes which have not been prepared for the Coronation should be cleaned up and prepared for the summer planting.

B. & O. Purse Session. Envelopes should reach Headquarters not later than the 8th May, 1937.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

DONT'S—PROPRIETIES

BOTH the official Laws of Auction Bridge (1932) and the Laws of Contract Bridge (1935) differentiate between "proprieties" and the general laws.

The object of the "proprieties" is to enlighten players who, in many cases, fail to appreciate when they are improperly conveying information to their partners—which is often a more reprehensible offence than a mere unintentional violation of a law.

The principles embodied in the following injunctions are, therefore, of vital concern to all Bridge players, but no attempt has been made to differentiate between Auction and Contract, as these inhibitions are of general application.

1. Don't delay in making a declaration when there is no need to consider any other call.
 2. Don't call with special emphasis, inflection or intonation.
 3. Don't vary the expressions or formulae used in calling.
 4. Don't indulge in either exceptional haste or exceptional reluctance, when passing or doubling.
 5. Don't attract attention to the score—except when necessary to do so for your own information.
 6. Don't give the slightest indication of the nature of your hand, or suggest any line of play—either by word, manner or gesture.
 7. Don't call attention to the number of tricks needed to complete or defeat a Contract.
 8. Don't indicate in any way either approval or disapproval of your partner's call or play.
 9. Don't make any necessary request to place the cards played to a trick.
 10. Don't play a card with special emphasis.
 11. Don't delay in playing to a trick when the situation does not need any consideration.
 12. Don't detach a card from your hand before it is your turn to lead or to play.
 13. Don't use any convention in calling or any understanding which has not been announced, or is not known to your opponents.
 14. Don't hesitate to reply fully and readily to any inquiry made by an opponent as to the meaning or use of any conventional call.
- Don't forget, however, that (except as specially provided in the Laws relating to Dummy) it is not wrong to warn your partner against infringing any rule of the game, e.g., against calling, leading or playing out of turn. Nor is it wrong to keep silent in regard to a revoke by one's own side, as there is no moral obligation to bring it to the notice of your opponents. Presumably, you have made an innocent error, and if they inadvertently fail to notice it, the two mistakes should cancel each other.



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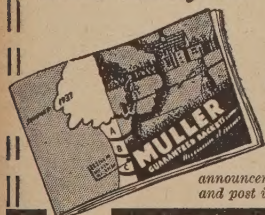
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The Prime Minister and Negotiation

* At a dinner given in his honour by the Federation of British Industries at Grosvenor House on Tuesday, April 13, the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, said:

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General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Travel and Description

Two additions to the series of books done by Batsford Ltd. (7s. 6d. each) have just been issued. "**North Country**," by Edmund Vale, and "**The Land of Wales**," by E. and P. Lewis. Both give excellent accounts of the districts and their commercial and industrial position, the characteristic features of the people, with something of religious and social life in town and country. They are intended for the general reader and are beautifully illustrated.—It would be difficult to find a more enthralling account of a voyage across the Atlantic in a small motor-vessel than in the record of "**The Voyage of the 'Girl Pat'**," by Skipper Orsborne and his crew (Hutchinson, 8s. 6d.). The story of the theft of the vessel and the conviction of the skipper and his brother are familiar to everyone as the sensation of last year: but the story of the voyage and the terrible plight of the four men when they reached "Devil's Island," their fight against hunger and thirst is thrilling.—In quite different vein but in delightful style is "**Ten Days Off**," by George Dunn (Cape, 7s. 6d.). It is a simple record of a holiday—motor-cycling, principally—but the author has a decided gift for describing the people he meets in his travels.

Fiction

The scene of "**Dancing Ghyll**," by E. M. Ward (Methuen, 7s. 6d.) is laid in the Keswick district; the main theme is a feud between neighbours and the love of one for the niece of the other. The later chapters contain a very fine dramatic account of a storm and the resulting flood.—In "**We Are Not Alone**" (Macmillan, 6s.); James Hilton pictures the tragedy of a little doctor in a small, gossip-ridden Cathedral town. The clash between the doctor and his wife commences over the latter's harsh treatment of their abnormally sensitive boy. Later the little doctor renders professional aid to a foreign actress and becomes enamoured of her; the death of the wife by poison leads to their arrest and unjust conviction for murder. The book is unusual in style, well written and excellent in its portrayal of the chief characters.—The language rather than the theme is usually the appeal in H. M. Tomlinson's books. "**All Hands**" (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.), described as a saga of the sea, tells the story of the voyage of a none too sea-worthy freighter from England to Boston via Tripoli. The two passengers, a doctor and his daughter, tell the story of the ship's perilous voyage.—"**Action for Slander**" (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.) is one of the best stories of its kind; it is by that versatile writer Mary Borden. The conduct of the case takes up the whole of the book, that of a man accused of cheating at cards at a week-end party. The judge is an excellent character.

More Serious Matters

Frederick B. B. Kirkman takes the black-headed gull as his example of "**Bird Behaviour**" (Nelson, 7s. 6d.). The book

is the outcome of thirty years' observation and experiment in bird mentality and action. It is written in an entertaining style and the illustrations are excellent. I picked up "**The Romantic Age of Europe in the Early Nineteenth Century**," by Professor R. B. Mow (Harrap, 6s.) in a rather critical mood. It seemed to be nothing but a summary of books covering the period—"that strange disturbing, brilliant era from the French Revolution to the revolutions of 1848"—but I soon found it full of interest and clever survey of Western thought worth attention.

A Masonic Study

"**Shakespeare, Creator of Free masonry**" (Rider, 12s. 6d.) is by Alfred Dodd, a Past Master of the Order who has made an extensive examination of the plays and poems, particularly "**Love's Labour Lost**" and "**The Tempest**," with the object of showing how they are saturated with masonic words and actions in an endeavour to prove that Shakespeare had much to do with the establishment of speculative freemasonry as practised to day. His statement of the case is ingenious but will not be fully convincing to a mason.

Other People

"**Present Indicative**" (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.) is the life story of Noel Coward to the year 1936, told in intimate fashion. Apart from a very brief chapter relating to a brief army experience, it is generally associated with his failures and successes as actor and play-wright.—Dr. Halliday Sutherland's new book "**In My Path**" (Bles, 10s. 6d.) is reminiscent in character. His adventures have been many and varied—West Africa, a quiet Highland village, etc. The book is rich in story and experience associated with his professional duties.

N.A.L.G.O. SWISS HOLIDAYS

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